

AIM

Autistic Inclusive Meets UK

ANNUAL REPORT

2024



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www.austisticinclusivemeets.org

***Annual Report edited and published by
Drag Queen Story Hour UK***

www.dragqueenstoryhour.org.uk

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CEO INTRO



Emma Dalmayne

Another year has passed, and we've seen growing acceptance of autistic people in the media and better public education on autism. Yet, newly diagnosed adults are still left unsupported, feeling lost.

Parents of newly diagnosed children are often told that Applied Behavioral Analysis and Positive Behaviour Support are the gold standard, pushing compliance-driven programs. This is alarming. We continue to advocate for gentle, child-led therapies like play therapy, drama therapy, sensory integration, and fostering autonomy and self-acceptance.

This year, we supported three young autistic women with ARFID who had been sectioned. One now has a gagging order on her case. Holly was successfully discharged, but Saffron remains sectioned, under constant watch with restrictive measures.

We're also working with Tracy, a mother fighting for her son Kyle Gibbons' freedom. Please read his story and sign his petition found on

I confronted Wes Streeting, Minister for Health, about his discriminatory rule barring trans children from accessing puberty blockers, while cis children with precocious puberty retain access. His actions jeopardise lives in the trans community. You can sign our open letter linked in the report.

This year, we collaborated with supportive schools and helped families whose schools lacked understanding. Our attendees continue growing in self-confidence, self-awareness, and pride in their neurodivergent.

It's a joy to welcome new adults and parents to our events. Parents are amazed at how at ease their children feel among neurodivergent peers. Adults find reassurance—they are not lost or broken but celebrated as their authentic selves.

Here's to another year of progress! Be loud, proud, and take care.

**Thank you,
Emma Dalmayne**



DEDICATION

HOLLY DOYLE

We would like to dedicate this year to Holly Doyle, for her bravery and determination. We welcome Holly on as an Ambassador to AIM.



We are dedicating this edition of our annual report to Holly. Holly fought for her discharge from an unjust sectioning for her Arfid with our support. She faced threats of force feeding, ableism and discrimination with bravery and determination.

Holly made multiple videos with us which gathered millions of views and worldwide support, including a new piece and a victorious petition on change.org calling for her freedom.



PATRONS

We'd like to extend our thanks and heartfelt gratitude to our wonderful patrons. Thank you for your wonderful support and all you have done for us!



AIDA H DEE / SAB SAMUEL



DAVID GRAY-HAMMOND



AMANDA HIND



JULIA CARO



PAUL HILZ



JENNY BEAN



COURTNEY COURTNEY



DANNY ALLAN

REPTILE CENTRE

LOOK! A SNEEEK!

May's visit to the National Centre for Reptile Rescue, absolutely brilliant! Thank you to South East London Reptile Rescue's Clare Eley for arranging our visit and accompanying us, the children loved it and learnt so much.



DAVE COURTNEY'S MEMORIAL DAY OUT

Thank you to Bobby and Chrissy Baxter for a brilliant outing to Old Macdonalds Farm and Fun Park!

This trip and any future ones are in the memory of our wonderful Patron Dave Courtney, we miss him so much. Thank you to our Patron Courtney Courtney, and to Brendan and Mercy West!



We had two of our lovely Patrons with us today, Courtney and Danny Allan, and AIM Director's Owen Liddle, Jenny Payne and Emma Dalmayne. The families all had a great time and all the kids left tired and happy.

AUTISTIC PRIDE

“We are who we say we are!”

From right across England Autistic sellers, advocates, activists and public speakers made their way to Woolwich Common Youth Club to take part in our Autistic Pride and Craft Fair. It was our busiest yet and it was heartwarming to see some of the families from our groups attending, three of them even had their own stalls; with the parents having realised they were Autistic themselves since coming along to our sessions.

Lovely to have two of our Patrons David Gray-Hammond and Danny Michael Allen there, and our Ambassador Amity Sings!



Thank you to our speakers:

Charlie Hart /Ausome Charlie of AIM Rainbow
David Gray-Hammond /Emergent Divergent our Patron
Ed Shearer /Neurodivergent Joy
Mandy Cook/ The Autistic Teacher from Autism South East
William Vanderpuye AIM Director
Callum Brazzo of Aut-Couture
Dean Beadle Speaker

Thank you to Autism South East, London Autism Group and South East Reptile Rescue and to all our table holders.

Thank you to our volunteers Clare Elsey, Erika Challenger and Merlin for all your help.

Thank you to AIM Director Owen Liddle for your fab photos of the event.



A massive thank you to Patricia Holczimmer and Young Greenwich, without you this as always would not have been possible.

POSTAL MUSEUM

EXPRESS DELIVERY!

Our home edders trip to the Postal Museum was both educational and fun.

We got to go on the Mail Rail through the hidden tunnels under London,we explored inspiring exhibitions packed with incredible objects, exciting stories and fun-filled interactive displays.

The staff were inclusive and friendly which immediately put our families at ease.

A great day for us all.



SLIME PARTY



SPLAAATT!!

A wonderful time was had by 20 of our child and teen attendees at our AIM Thursday group, Slime Party was a HUGE success. The attendees enjoyed making the slime independently. A bonus apart from the tactile, visual and olfactory feedback was the fine manipulation and visual tracking they had to use to achieve the perfect texture.

Thank you to DIY Slime Party Ltd!



NOT BACK TO



LET'S CELEBRATE HOME EDUCATORS!

Every year proud parents whose children attend school put up photos on their social media of their children in their uniforms, celebrating the fact that they are making their way to their chosen educational settings.



SCHOOL PICNIC

This is our day of applauding home educators who spend countless hours being the parent, carer, and teacher for their children.

“HOME EDUCATORS RULE!”



Meanwhile across the country, home educators do their own celebrations with gatherings in woods, on beaches and in their homes; displaying the freedom their families are able to enjoy daily with their educational activities and lifestyle.

Many families with Neurodivergent children did try school settings, only to have their children neglected, bullied and failed through lack lack of accommodations.

Thank you to The Royal Parks London Play Design and brilliant face painter Max Sparkle for a wonderful afternoon! They included a tour of the Queens Orchard and sensory play oobleck, bubbles, sand and dressing up.



PRIDE IN LONDON



WE ARE FAMILY!

A lovely lovely day! The Queer corner of Autistic Inclusive Meets, AIM For The Rainbow walked today for the first time at London Pride, the crowd's' reaction was beautiful! Our CEO Emma Dalmayne and our Patron David Gray-Hammond gave out mum and dad hugs; they were needed. Will be doing this again next year. Many thanks to Charlie Hart for arranging everything, a brilliant time was had by all.



TOBIE'S STORY

“CCTV in SEN Schools!”

Tobie is non speaking, autistic and Learning Disabled, he was beaten for 20 minutes by his TA in his school, who then was allowed to walk free.



Directors Owen Liddle, Jenny Payne and Emma Dalmayne journeyed to Wolverhampton to meet Charlotte Orlowski and her son Tobie.

We took some sensory based gifts for him, which were kindly sent by Samar Waqar founder and director of Kind Theory all the way from Texas USA!

Please sign the petition asking to “Protect Vulnerable Autistic Children: Install CCTV in Special Educational Settings”



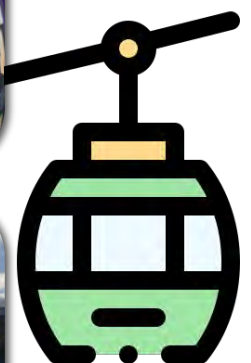
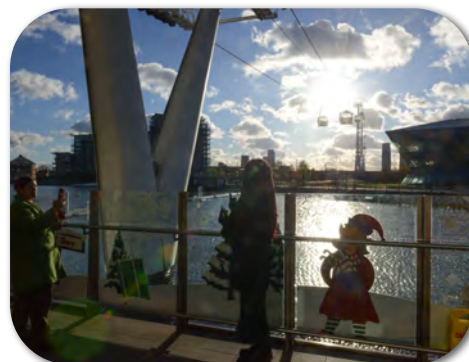
CABLE CARS

DON'T LOOK DOWN!

Thank you to IFS ICloud Cable Cars and DLR for their generosity with with travel and tickets.

We couldn't have done the trip without the help of DLR's Jacqueline Delventhal, who has always went out of her way to be inclusive and supportive. She was going up and down in the lifts with our attendees and came with us on the DLR journey to the cable cars to make sure we got there OK.

The views from the cars were amazing, and it was fascinating to hear director Owen Liddle point out monumental moments in history relating to the London skyline.



AUTISM SHOW

AIM Director's Emma Dalmayne, William Vanderpuye, Jenny Payne and Owen Liddle were at the Autism Show Excel again this year, and as usual it did not disappoint.

We met lots of parents and carers, and networked with professionals.

We also saw our Patron Amanda Hind and saw author Chris Bonnelo. It was a pleasure to meet Tigger Pritchard, and of course the ever present authors Michael Barton and Joely Walliams.

**Thank you to Joy and Carl Wilkins
for all your support.**



HALLOWEEN PARTY

BOOOO!

We had an **extra spooky** Halloween party this year with lots of delicious plates of food brought in by our attendees.

Patron Danny Allan did fabulous cosplay of Freddy Krueger and Michael Myers, Greenwich Wildlife Network brought along 3 lovely ferrets for a visit, and the children asked lots of questions on what the ferrets eat and how to look after them.

Everyone had a brilliant time with a record 41 kids in attendance, thank you all for coming and to our volunteers for helping out.



NEW TRAINING

We trained all the branches of Greenwich Libraries this year.

We are now offering training sessions to schools, colleges, libraries, businesses and prisons. The aim of this training is to increase your skills working with Autistic people, and help you work towards a neuro-inclusive environment.

Training topics include:

- Sensory issues and accommodations
- Identity first language vs Person first language
- Integrating Autistic people into inclusive environments
- The dangers of behavioural therapies



Your organisation will receive a certificate upon completion of the course in recognition of your training and increased competency in creating Autistic Friendly Spaces.

WEEKLY GROUPS



Weekly Groups

Our weekly groups happen every Monday & Thursday, and cost £2 and £2.50 respectively per family, per session. Refreshments included!

Mondays at 4pm - 5:30pm

Thursdays at 12pm - 2:30pm

Brookhill Children's Centre, Woolwich, SE18 6UZ

**No diagnosis
needed.**

**No referral
necessary.**

**Sensory play
provided each
week to aid and
stimulate the
tactile, auditory,
visual, and
olfactory senses.**

**Meet other
autistic people
too!**



TRANS+ LETTER

Emma Dalmayne attended a meeting today regarding the Lampard Inquiry at the Department of Health and Social Care.

She took the opportunity to hand over a letter by David Gray-Hammond and the AIM Rainbow Board.



'Statement of Intent to Take Action Regarding The Recent Ban on Puberty Blockers for Transgender Minors.

My name is David Gray-Hammond. I am an Independent Advocate instructed by the signatories of this open statement. I am also a member of the Autistic and LGBTQIA+ community in the United Kingdom.



**SCAN THIS
FOR MORE
INFO**

SANTA'S BREKKIE



HO HO HO!

A lovely morning at Fox Under The Hill's SEN breakfast with Santa, lots of happy families, and FUTH could bring have been more kind and inclusive.

Thank you to Sian Hurrell for making such a big effort, it was very much appreciated.



GHOSTBUSTERS

WHO YOU GONNA CALL?

We had an amazing time at the Royal Albert Hall celebrating the 40th anniversary of Ghostbusters, with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra doing the soundtrack.

There were 32 of us, 10 AIM families and adults made our way by coach from Woolwich to Kensington.

On the way back the children were discussing what they had seen with each other, with the parents reminiscing away in the background about their favourite scenes. Thank you to the Royal Albert Hall for a great



XMAS FAIR



“ALL MADE BY AUTISTIC PEOPLE”

This year our Christmas Craft Fair was our most successful so far, with stall holders selling beautiful bespoke pieces such as sensory items, jewellery, books, candles, ornaments, key rings, clothing, coasters, badges and pieces of art were sold, all made by autistic people.

People crowded around the stalls, snapping up unique gifts for their loved ones, it was good to bring the community together again at this time of year, with newcomers eager to join for friendship and support.

We look forward to hosting it again next year!



XMAS WITH AIDA

Christmas Drag Queen Story Hour
with our Patron Aida H Dee!

We were treated to a most fabulous
performance by our Patron Aida H
Dee at our AIM Christmas party; she
had all the attendees up and
roaring as fiercely as they could,
AND, she finally got to meet our
other Patron Danny Allan!



KYLE GIBBONS



We've supported Tracy Gibbon in her fight to bring home her son Kyle, a 37-year-old autistic man with ADHD and learning disabilities, detained for 15 years at Carstairs, a high-security state hospital. Kyle has committed no crime, poses no danger, and yet remains in isolation without stimulation or proper care.

Initially admitted under a Community Treatment Order for an alleged minor assault, Kyle faced additional charges stemming from restraint incidents during his stay. He has suffered significant injuries, including fractures, burns, and emotional trauma from prolonged restraint. Despite this, he remains medicated unnecessarily, exacerbating his distress.

Before his admission, Kyle was thriving—he attended college, lived independently, and volunteered. What was intended as 'support' turned into a 15-year ordeal that has cost the state millions.

Our efforts have amplified Tracy's campaign to secure Kyle's release and restore his dignity, emphasising the need for reform in how individuals with disabilities are treated in high-security settings.

Please consider signing this petition to help Tracy and Kyle:



BOXING

Our AIM 9-17 group's ongoing boxing sessions, led by Coach Dre Edwards, have proven to be a remarkable success. Dre has established a wonderful rapport with the children and teens, making the sessions enjoyable and beneficial for building their confidence. We're grateful for the continuous sponsorship from BKB, thanks to Jim and Joe, allowing these vital confidence-boosting sessions to persist.

Special thanks to Dave Courtney, our Forever Patron and their Ambassador, whose memory we honour through these boxing classes, a testament to his proud legacy and support.



FOOTBALL



IT'S A GOAL!

Our football sessions with Charlton Athletic Community Trust continue to be a safe haven for kids aged 5-17 who love to play.

We still have spaces, we run Saturdays term time only at 11.30-12.30pm for ages 5-17 at Footscray Rugby Club, parents/carers must stay for the session.

Your child/teen **MUST** be able to follow instructions, these sessions are structured.

Your first session is free, it's then £5 per session payable a month in advance, please email us for more details.

autisticinclusivemeets@gmail.com



THANK YOU

Patricia Holczimmer

Thank you as always to Patricia Holczimmer for your unwavering support and help over the years. Nothing is ever too much for you!



Sab Samuel

Who is this person? Have we seen their face before? Let's just say they are a fabulous storyteller... and can be found on page 24!



Danny Allan

For the cosplays, the constant support, fun and enthusiasm you show us, you are always with a smile and a joke to keep our spirits up.



Mercy & Brendan

Thank you to Brendan and Mercy for your kindness, your support and generosity to us, you both are very appreciated.





www.AutisticInclusiveMeets.org