



Bigger and Better in Leeds 2018

A **FREE** event celebrating World
Autism Awareness Day and
autism acceptance in Leeds

TALKS / STALLS / INFO

Tuesday 27th March 2018

Civic Hall, Calverley St, Leeds LS1 1UR

Open from 9:30am to 3:00pm

SPONSORED BY



ABOUT THE EVENT



Bigger And Better In Leeds 2018 is a free, one day event, open to the public; this annual event is held to mark World Autism Awareness Week. It was set up in 2015 as a collective effort by a group of Leeds based charities.

The event is intended to increase autism understanding, awareness and acceptance across the city and to promote a positive view of autistic people.

We have some fantastic guest speakers lined up for the 2018 event - television producer and comedic writer Henry Normal, and local DWP neurodiversity expert Angie Balmer, who will both be providing information and a personal insight into autism.

We will also enjoy short talks from local autistic people who will be sharing their achievements and aspirations for 2018.

This year, we will create an "Autism Tree" – attendees are invited to take a leaf, personalise it and write on it what autism means to them. This will then be hung on the tree at the venue.

At the end of the event, the completed tree will be relocated to Leeds City Museum to be displayed for a month, allowing a wider audience to gain an insight into autism.

There will be more than 30 stalls in attendance. These will include autism charities and the services they offer to adults, children, parents/carers; NHS services, Leeds City Council services, Citizens Advice Bureau and Department of Work and Pensions (DWP). You will find information on topics including diagnosis, employment, education, mental health, advocacy and peer support.

WHAT'S ON?

9:30am	Doors open
10:00am	Helen Gee, autism lead for Leeds City Council
10:30am	Henry Normal
11:30pm	Angie Balmer
12:30pm	Local speakers
15:00pm	Event ends

GUEST SPEAKERS

Helen Gee, Commissioning and Development Officer (Autistic Spectrum Conditions) for Leeds City Council, will open the event and give a talk on the 2018-2022 Leeds Adult Autism Strategy.



Henry Normal is a well-known comedian, television producer, poet and writer. He co-wrote shows including *The Royle Family* and *The Mrs Merton Show* amongst others.

Henry has a 19-year-old autistic son and has recently published a new book '*A Normal Family – Everyday Adventures with our Autistic Son*'. Henry explains the book is for anyone whose life has been touched by autism. It's about hope, the despair and the messy, honest, sometimes comical day-to-day world of autism.



Angie Balmer is the Learning Disability and Neurodiverse Conditions Community Partner for the DWP in West Yorkshire. Angie will be talking about her efforts to up-skill work coaches about autism and the challenges it brings.

She will also discuss her experiences as an autistic person acclimatising to a new career within the civil service. Angie has been working for the DWP for many years and regularly visits job centres in Leeds.



Talks from **local autistic people** will then follow our guest speakers; each talk will be approximately five minutes long and will feature people who access a variety of autism-specific services, including Leeds Autism Services, Specialist Autism Services and Leeds Autism AIM.

Talks will focus on the success that autistic adults can, and have, achieved.

THE VENUE

Leeds Civic Hall is located in Millennium Square, opposite the Leeds General Infirmary (LGI) and can be accessed through the main entrance. The event will be spread across two floors; children's services along with more general services will be on the ground floor and services for adults will be on the first floor. The **Banqueting Suite** will host the guest speakers and the autism tree. A **quiet room** will be available should you find the event to be a little too noisy or overwhelming. Toilet facilities are also available.

EVENT ORGANISERS



las.uk.net

specialistautismservices.org



leedsabcgroupp.wordpress.com

leedsautismaim.org.uk



USEFUL INFO

- Parking is available at the **Merrion Centre** for a discounted rate. To obtain your discount, simply go to the **CitiPark** multi-storey on the day and bring your ticket to **Leeds Autism Services'** stall. They will discount your ticket by **50%**
- Tea, coffee and soft drinks will be available to buy from **Leeds Civic Hall catering**
- There are a number of food outlets nearby for light refreshments/lunch and in addition, we have arranged a discount of **20%** off food orders only, at **The Cuthbert Brodrick** (JD Wetherspoon) in Millennium Square. Obtain your 20% off voucher from the **Banqueting Suite**
- If you are looking for something specific at the event, please ask one of our volunteers who will be wearing **yellow t-shirts** with the Bigger And Better In Leeds logo



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CONTACT US

Spread the word on social: If you're at this year's event and have some pics or thoughts on the day, why not share them on social media, using the hashtag **#BiggerAndBetterInLeeds2018**

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Web: www.biggerandbetterinleeds.org | Tel: 0113 245 2645

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