



Situated in the centre of Truro, the Pearl Centre is a place for people with autism and their families to get information and advice on Autistic Spectrum Disorders (ASDs) and associated conditions.

It acts as an information and resource hub to families, individuals, carers, organisations and statutory authorities. We point the way to other agencies which can also offer support and help.

Support

We know that individuals with autism and their families benefit from face-to-face support from people who have knowledge of autism and who can offer advice on how to access further sources of help and support.

People come to the Pearl Centre enquiring about:

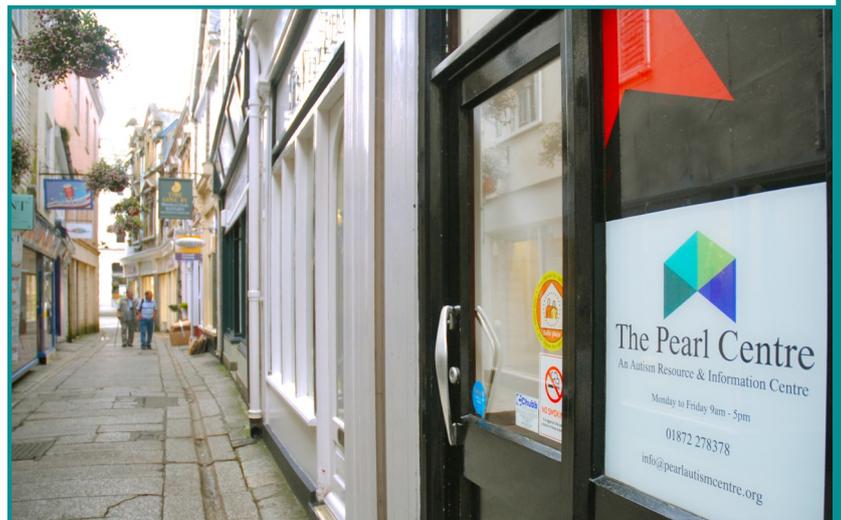
- Diagnosis—how and where it can be obtained
- Help with school attendance
- Transition to adulthood
- Work opportunities
- Support and activity groups
- Accessing care and respite

We put people in touch with whatever is available to help make their lives easier.

Sometimes, just a bit of understanding and knowing that you're not alone is all that's needed to make a difference.

Safe Place

The Pearl Centre is registered as a 'Safe Place' under a scheme run by Cornwall Council. As such, the centre provides a refuge for people with mental disabilities who encounter abuse, bullying or harassment in the immediate vicinity. We will help them to contact the police and their family or carers.



Our Facilities

We have two meeting rooms, which we are happy to make available to other similar organisations free of charge. One room will seat about 12 people, and the other room, which is used for consultancy, can seat about five people. The central location has proved to be very convenient.

The Devon & Cornwall Autistic Society uses the centre as a base from which to operate their 'befriending' scheme.

Our 'family room' is a restful space where parents can find time to focus on their children's needs

We have a computer suite where people can come to browse the internet, a room which is used for displays, and a further room at the back which is informally used for music practice by a couple of up-and-coming musicians!

Lastly, the staffed reception area is where all sorts of information can be found about autism, other associated conditions, local events and meetings.

Tea, coffee and soft drinks are available free of charge to our visitors, although donations are always welcome!



SESSIONS AND GROUPS

The centre runs several popular groups and sessions.

The Siblings Group is for brothers and sisters of children with autism. It helps them to understand more about why their sibling is different and what they can do to help. They also discover that they are not alone and can share their experiences with others.

Best of all, they get some time where they are the centre of attention for a change!

Open Sessions are held several times throughout the year. They provide an opportunity for interested people to put their questions to our clinical psychologist and a behavioural expert. These sessions are very popular: numbers are restricted so attendance needs to be booked in advance. These sessions can be held elsewhere in Cornwall.

Asperger's Syndrome — Funding is currently being sought to enable monthly information sessions for people with Asperger's. There will be guest speakers and workshops.

Details and dates about forthcoming sessions, groups and events can be found on our FaceBook page



EVENTS

The Pearl Centre organises various events throughout the year, some of which have become annual fixtures.

Autism Conference — This is proving to be very popular and highlights new approaches to autistic spectrum disorders, and how those who have the condition can learn to develop and make progress in controlling their lives.

Health Promotion & Autism Information Day — This will become an annual event and will address general health issues in terms of people with autism.

Pearl Centre Fun Day — As the name suggests, this will become a summer event for families to get together for a barbecue and games in an autism-friendly location.

Autism Cinema Screenings — The Pearl Centre has been instrumental in instigating and promoting autism-friendly screenings of popular family films in local cinemas. These screenings have been well-attended and much appreciated.

Art is Art — This is a very popular competition open to children and adults who have an autistic spectrum disorder or associated condition. It promotes communication through artistic expression.



www.spectrumasd.org

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