

# Think Autism

## working together in partnership

Local groups run by autistic people for autistic people.



# Background

In 2009, an Autism Partnership Board was introduced in Bedfordshire to improve local services and help autistic adults to live fulfilling and rewarding lives.

**In 2019, the Partnership Board asked local people if they were getting what they needed from this meeting.**

It was clear from the feedback that change was wanted:

- smaller, local meetings in easily accessible venues
- you wanted your voices to be heard and to make positive changes for local autistic people
- information sent out before the meetings in easy read format to allow time to understand

Read the feedback results in full [here](#)





# What happened next

Central Bedfordshire Council collated the results of the feedback and created a new partnership model that meets the needs of local autistic people.

Unfortunately due to COVID-19 and the significant impact this has had on everyone's lives, we were not able to move on with local plans and next steps until now.





# Moving forward

Using your feedback, a new partnership structure was designed, called Bedfordshire Autism Voice, that will be **run by local autistic people for local autistic people**.

There will now be 3 **Bedfordshire Autism Voice Groups** held **once every 3 months** in your local area to discuss local important issues relevant to you.

Each group will be facilitated by the same specialist coordinator.





# Bedfordshire Autism Voice

The three local groups will be:

**North Central Bedfordshire**  
**Mid Central Bedfordshire**  
**South Central Bedfordshire**

Alongside these groups, there is a team of professionals who will meet every 6 months called the **Bedfordshire Autism Voice Alliance**. They will support the Bedfordshire Autism Voice Groups to make changes for autistic people.

There will also be an **annual Bedfordshire Autism Voice social event** to celebrate what has been achieved by the voice groups throughout the year.



# How to get involved



The new Bedfordshire Autism Voice Groups will start in April 2022. We would love you to get involved!



To join your local group, or if you have any questions, please send a message to:

[Bedfordshireautismvoicegroup@autismbeds.org](mailto:Bedfordshireautismvoicegroup@autismbeds.org)

A huge thank you for your help, support and patience with this process.

**We look forward to seeing you soon!**

