

We also offer a signposting service to other autism providers locally and nationally who can offer specific support and advice. We provide information about where to access professionals and services located within the Health and Social Care Partnership, because we are part of it. One very valued service is the ARCH/Money Matters fast track where ARCH staff can refer individuals in need of money or benefits advice to locality advisors via the team manager.

ARCH staff also offer individual appointments for autistic people and their families and carers who might need additional one-to-one support, or just need a coffee and chat with someone who 'gets it'!

Is there anything ARCH does not offer?

ARCH is not a crisis intervention service or a replacement for targeted autism specific services such as the Community Paediatric Service, Occupational Therapy Service, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services, Locality Adult/Children and Families Social Work or Educational and Clinical Psychology Teams.

Our intention is to work with all autism partners within the authority and wider community to co-design and deliver autism friendlier services which promote and protect the needs of those affected by autism within their own communities.

How do I access ARCH?

If you are a South Lanarkshire resident who is affected by or have an interest in autism indirectly or directly such as an autistic person, parent carer, sibling or carer that is all that is required.

Our service does not include North Lanarkshire.

If you reside in that area you should contact **'HOPE for Autism' (Phone: 01236 779191)** which is the autism support service commissioned by Health and Social Care North Lanarkshire.

You can access ARCH by simply phoning, emailing, or making an appointment to visit the centre for an informal chat. We respect our autistic people's diverse communication styles and we will use whatever method best suits their preference.

ARCH staff are happy to give you further information if you give us a call, email, or simply pop into the ARCH centre weekdays between 9am – 3pm by appointment.

Our address

Reid Street, Burnbank, Hamilton, ML3 0RQ
(located directly behind Hamilton School for the Deaf/Glenlee Primary school)

Our phone number:
0344 225 1111

Our email address:
ARCH@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

SAIL Autism is a registered charity SC 046814
COAST Autism is a registered charity SC 050788



If you need this information in another language or format, please contact us to discuss how we can best meet your needs.

Phone: 0303 123 1015

Email: equalities@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk



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ARCH

Autism Resources Coordination Hub



A Brief Guide for Autistic People, their Parent Carers and all Autism Community Stakeholders

What is ARCH?

The Autism Resources Co-ordination Hub (ARCH) is a South Lanarkshire Health and Social Care Partnership resource established in 2016 to support autistic people of all ages, their parent carers and extended networks. We offer a range of supports and services provided collaboratively by parent led groups, the voluntary sector, statutory sector, and our own ARCH staff.

ARCH offers support and advice to autistic people across their lifespan, as well as those supporting them at every life stage 'holding the hands of those holding the hands'.

Who are the ARCH staff?

Our small three-person full-time ARCH team are employed by South Lanarkshire Health and Social Care Partnership and comprise a Co-ordinator and two Resource Workers with autism experience.

What does ARCH offer?

There are various community-led supports based in ARCH and hosted within our small and homely centre by staff and other stakeholders which includes two registered autism charities SAIL Autism and COAST Autism as well as several other autism community-led groups.

ARCH also undertakes staff development training and awareness raising with interested agencies and stakeholders in all sectors. Past attendees have included the Scottish Ambulance Service, NHS Lanarkshire Health Visitor Student Nurses, the Procurator Fiscals Service and Morgan Stanley Investment Bank.

ARCH sends out regular dispatches via our email distribution list (currently 1800 people and growing every week) in relation to all autism-related developments locally, nationally and internationally.

ARCH staff run our telephone advice and support service every weekday during office hours and respond to hundreds of email enquiries, supplying valuable and informative links to resources and services, as well as offering much-needed autism-informed advice and guidance during the 'pre' 'mid' and 'post' diagnostic stages. The fact we are part of South Lanarkshire Health and Social Care Partnership means we can establish quicker links with other authority resources.

ARCH brings all stakeholders in the autism community together to raise the profile of our autistic people, striving to consciously contribute to greater inclusion, understanding and awareness.

Centre-based supports include:

- The ARCH (in-person) Parent Carer Support group – Mondays 10am – 12pm facilitated by ARCH staff
- The ARCH online ZOOM support sessions - Wednesdays 11am – 12pm, facilitated by ARCH staff
- A parent carer-led (in-person) peer support group delivered by COAST (Champions of Autism Spectrum Together) – every second Wednesday evening 6.30pm – 8.30pm
- The SAIL 'Teen Crew' – (in-person) volunteer led social activity group providing support to autistic teens in South Lanarkshire – Mondays and Wednesdays
- The SAIL 'Crew' (in person) volunteer led support group for young autistic adults up to age 24 – Thursday evenings – 7pm – 9pm
- The Social Inclusion Project (SIP) led by a member of the SLC Supported Employment Team alongside young autistic adults who provide peer mentoring for younger autistic people making their transition from full time education to further/higher education, training or employment
- Sanderson Additional Support Needs (ASN) high school (in-person) Transition group for S5 and S6 young people with Autism and co-occurring learning difficulties – Mondays – 11.30am – 2.30pm

- NHS Lanarkshire Occupational Therapist led Life Skills workshops – quarterly in ARCH
- ARCH staff contribute to the National Autistic Society 'Early Bird,' 'Early Bird Plus' and 'Early Bird: Teen Life' programmes delivered by group facilitators drawn from Education, Youth and Family Community Learning Services and Social Work Resources located within localities
- The COAST (in-person) volunteer led social interaction 'in-betweeners' group for young autistic people in secondary school, and in need of social interaction – Fridays 4pm – 6pm
- Various workshops and presentations by a range of agencies on a rolling basis. Previous presentations amongst many, have been made by Social Security Scotland, CEOPS (Child Exploitation and Online Protection Service), Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), Education Inclusion Services and The Family Fund
- The South Lanarkshire Autistic Female Engagement (SAFE) (in-person) group – facilitated by a female ARCH staff member, supporting autistic adult females – every second Friday 12pm – 2pm
- The ARCH Autistic Male Adult (in-person) support group – facilitated by a male ARCH staff member every Thursday or Friday 11.30am – 1pm.

Community-led, collaborative support

ARCH works alongside our autistic people, parent carers, voluntary organisations, and statutory colleagues to identify unmet need within the autism community. We collaborate to address self-identified gaps in support provision, then set about co-delivering programmes intended to improve the lived experiences for all autistic people in South Lanarkshire.