

## **Adult Asperger Syndrome Access to Services Participant Information Sheet**

As part of a research project looking at how well East Lancashire Mental Health Services meet the needs of adults who are on the Autism Spectrum, Action for ASD are looking to establish what issues adults within East Lancashire have when trying to access Mental Health support services. By finding out from people with Asperger Syndrome what barriers they have when trying to access Mental Health services we will let East Lancashire PCT know how they could provide a better service.

### **Can I take part in the project?**

If you are an adult, aged 18 years old or over on the Autism Spectrum (either with or without a diagnosis) or a parent/carer of an adult on the Autism Spectrum; and you live within the East Lancashire area then you can take part in the project.

### **Do I have to take part in the project?**

It is completely up to you whether or not you decide to take part in this research. If you do decide to take part you can withdraw from taking part in the research at any time without giving a reason and ask the researcher not to use your responses.

### **Will the information collected in the assessment be confidential?**

All of the information gathered during the assessment will remain completely confidential. Any reports that are written about this research will be anonymous; this means that they will not include any names, addresses, dates of birth or any other identifying information.

### **What will happen to the results of the research?**

The results of this assessment will be used to decide what changes need to be made to healthcare services in East Lancashire so that a better service can be provided for adults with Asperger Syndrome.

By taking part in the project you agree that the answers and information you give about your experiences and views on Mental Health services can be used to provide feedback to East Lancashire primary care.

### **What are the possible benefits of taking part?**

By taking part in this assessment you will be contributing to improving Mental Health services provided in East Lancashire, and benefiting both adults on the spectrum who need to access the services and staff working within the trust.

### **Who is organising and funding the assessment?**

The assessment is funded by East Lancashire PCT, and will be supervised by both the local Primary Care Trust and Action for ASD.

### **What additional measures/activities will be required of me?**

Should you agree to participate in the assessment then please complete a questionnaire relating to your experiences and views on Mental Health services in East Lancashire. Questionnaires that can be filled out online or downloaded can be found at [www.actionasd.org.uk/adultresearch.html](http://www.actionasd.org.uk/adultresearch.html).

Further to this, if you would like to then you may then choose to participate further in the research project by taking part in an interview, or keeping a daily blog or diary of your experiences and feelings.