

# **Kirklees Autism Show 2019**

Feedback  
May 2019



**35  
stalls!**

**198  
visitors!**

## **Introduction**

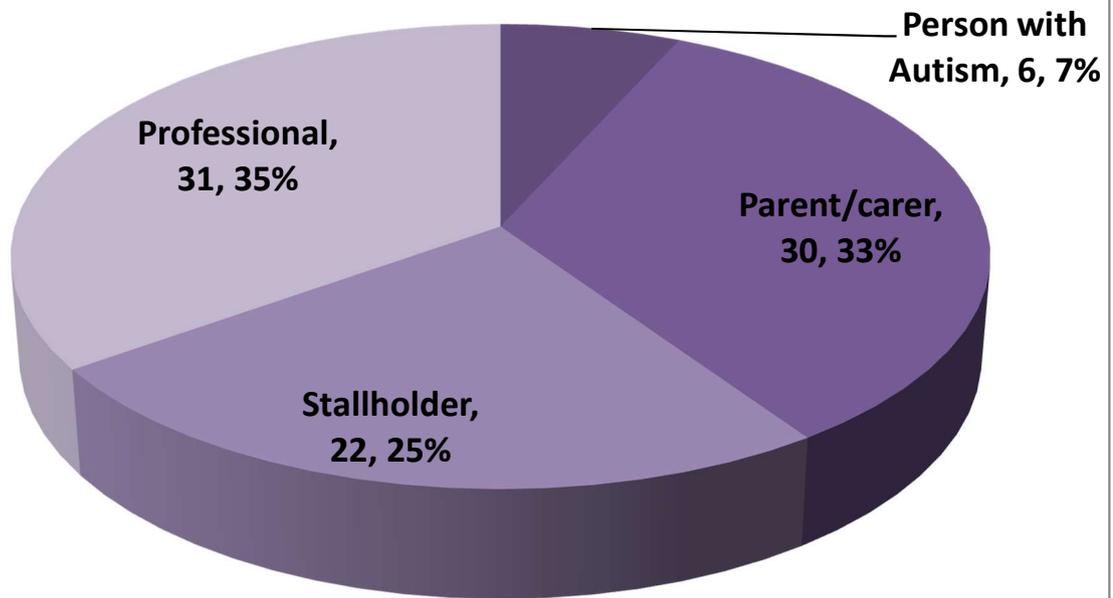
On Wednesday 1 May 2019 Kirklees Council, in partnership with South West Yorkshire NHS Foundation Trust held its sixth annual Autism Show. The event was held at the Textile Centre of Excellence in Huddersfield.

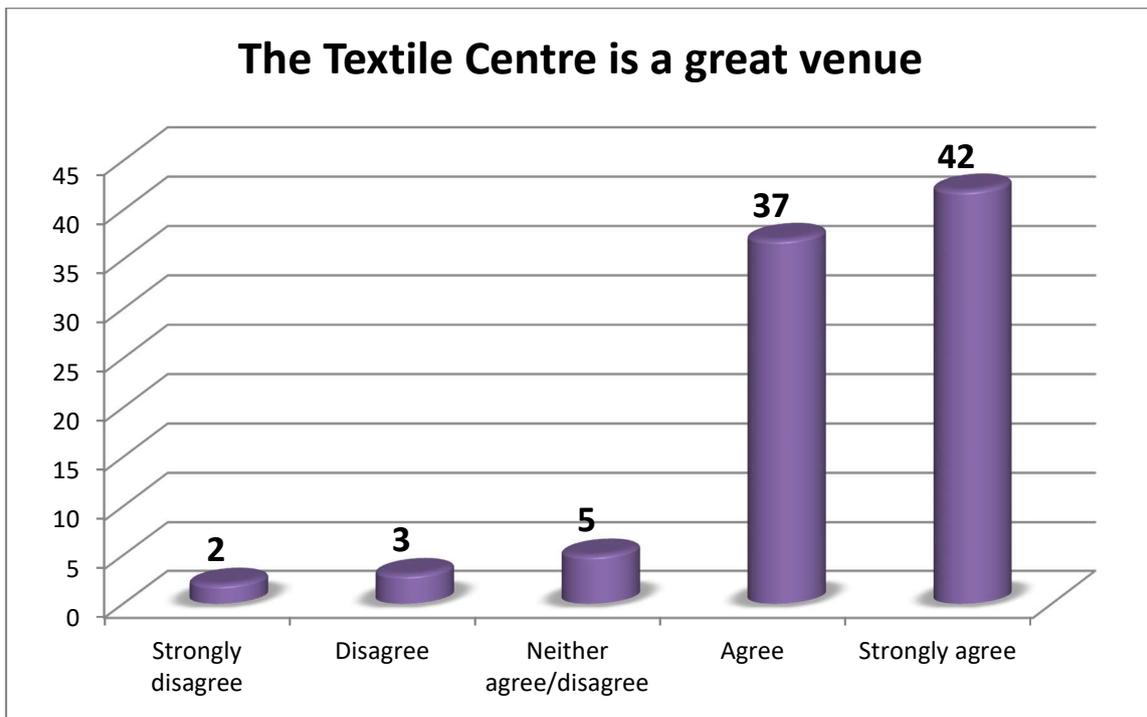
Approximately 35 organisations offering services and support in Kirklees had stalls at the event to offer information and advice for children, young people and adults with autism, parents / carers and professionals. Approximately 198 people attended including people with autism, parents / carers as well as professionals.

The aim of the event is to put people in touch with organisations that can help them, as well as helping to develop a better understanding of autism and support in creating a more inclusive local community where everyone is valued equally.

89 people completed an evaluation form.

## In what capacity were you attending the event?



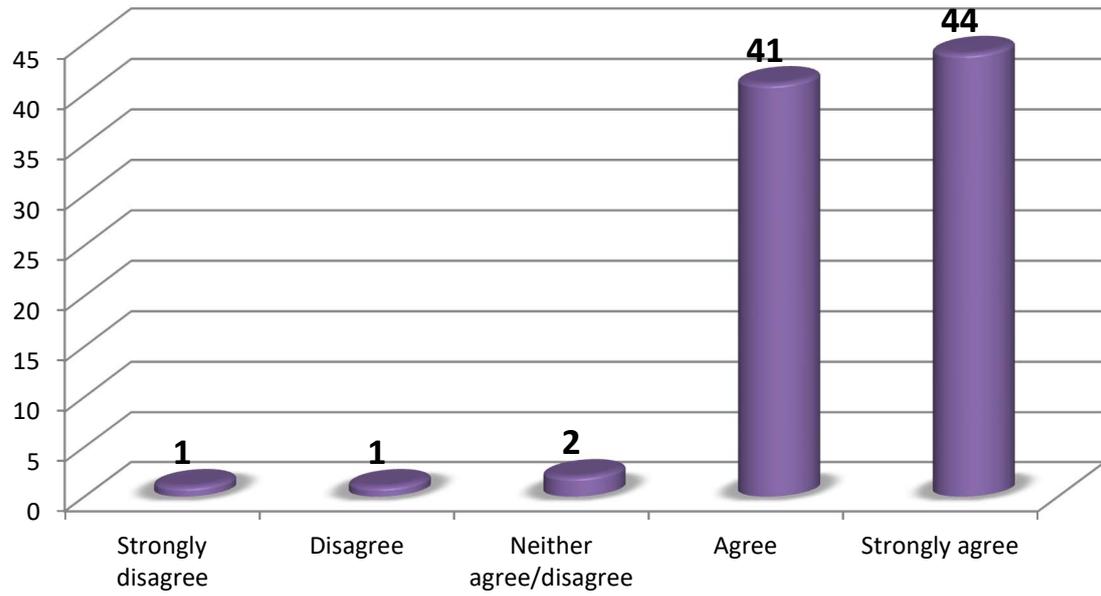


2 parent/carers and 1 professional answered strongly disagree to all questions but for the question 'Overall did you enjoy the event?' answered 5 – very enjoyable. Therefore I have assumed that they meant to circle strongly agree instead of disagree.

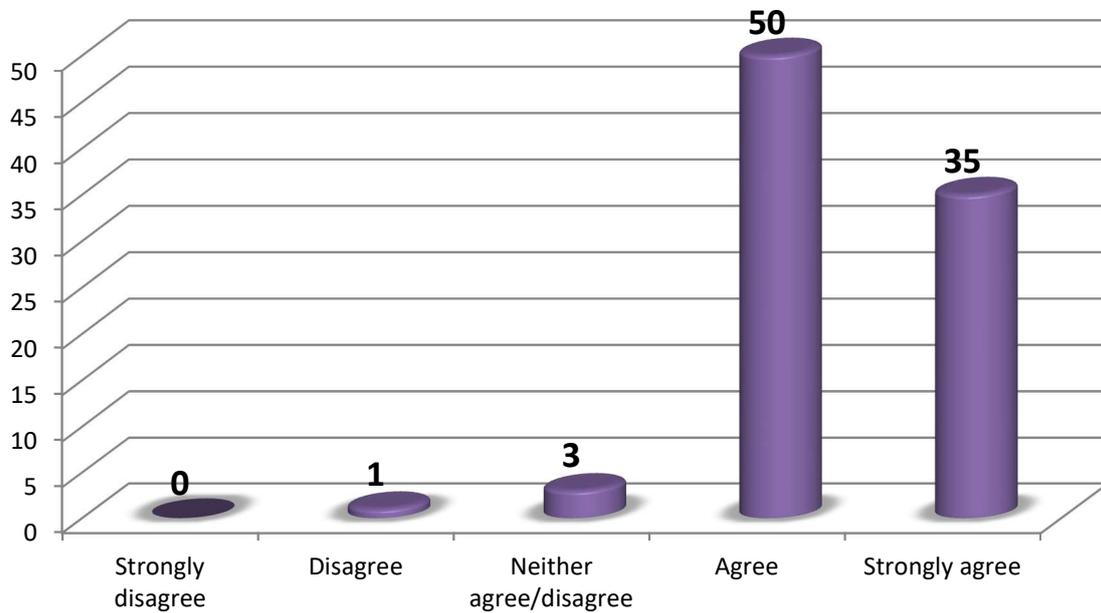
1 professional also answered strongly disagree to all questions but left no comments and didn't complete the second side so I have assumed this to be correct.

1 stallholder commented 'parking at Odeon quite a way with stand etc.'

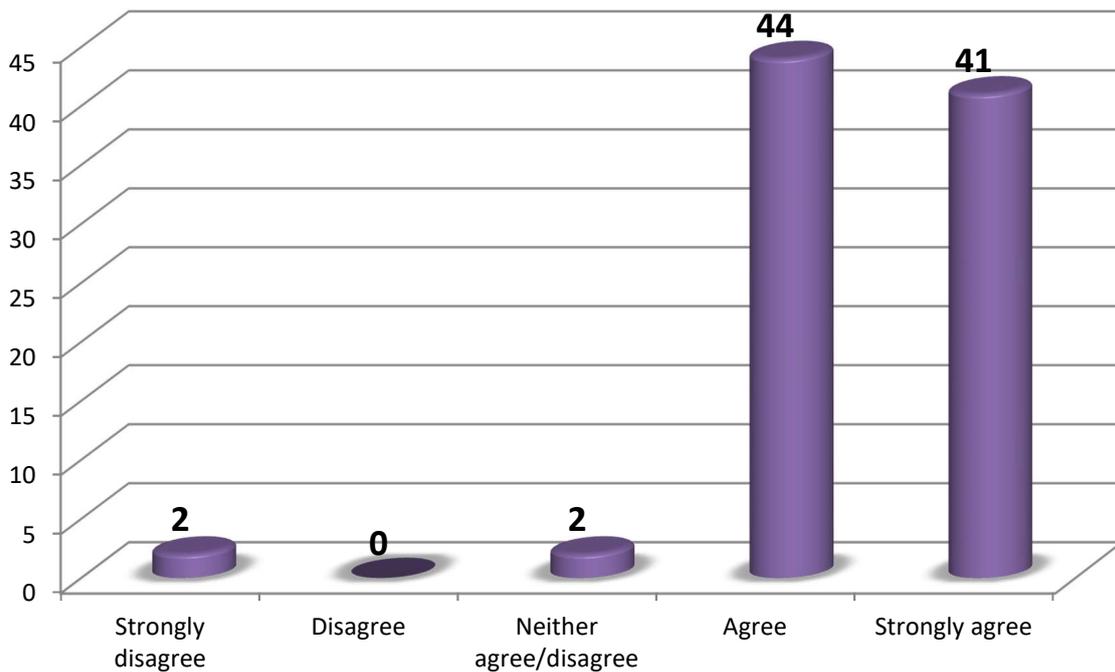
### The date and time of the event were good for me



### The quality of the stands was excellent

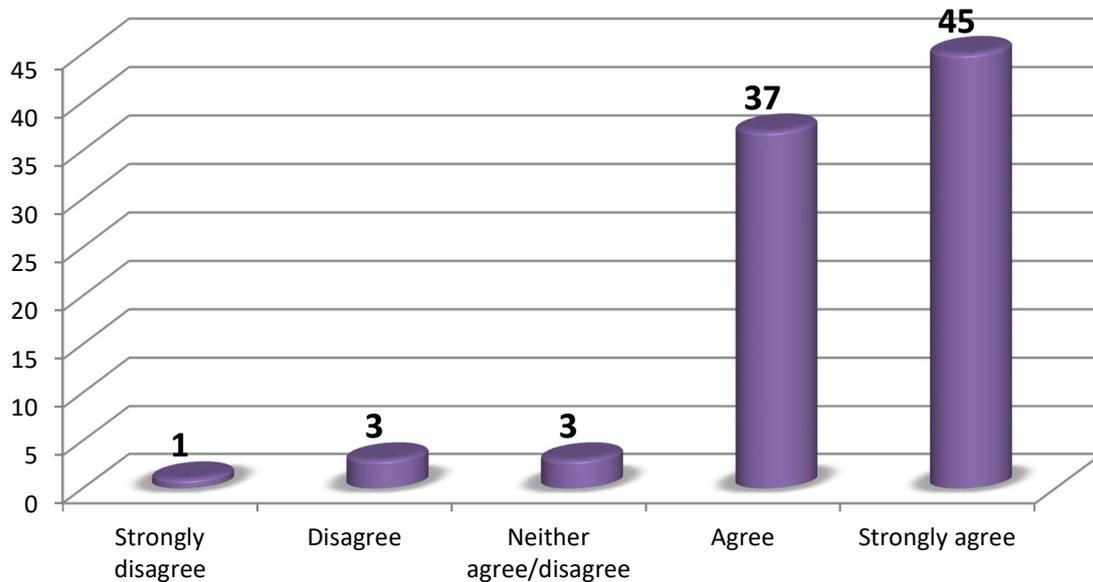


### The range of information was really good

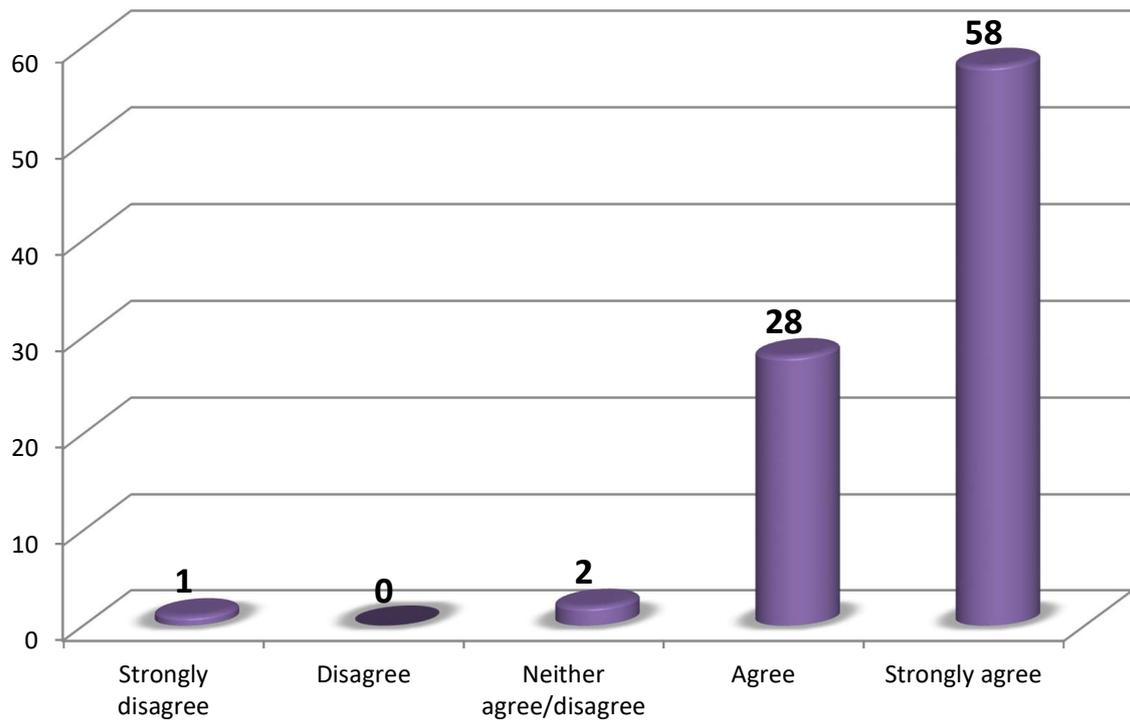


1 person with autism answered strongly disagree with a note 'where was Many Gates?' (SWYPFT Autism Service based at Many Gates had a stall at the event.)

### The event was well organised

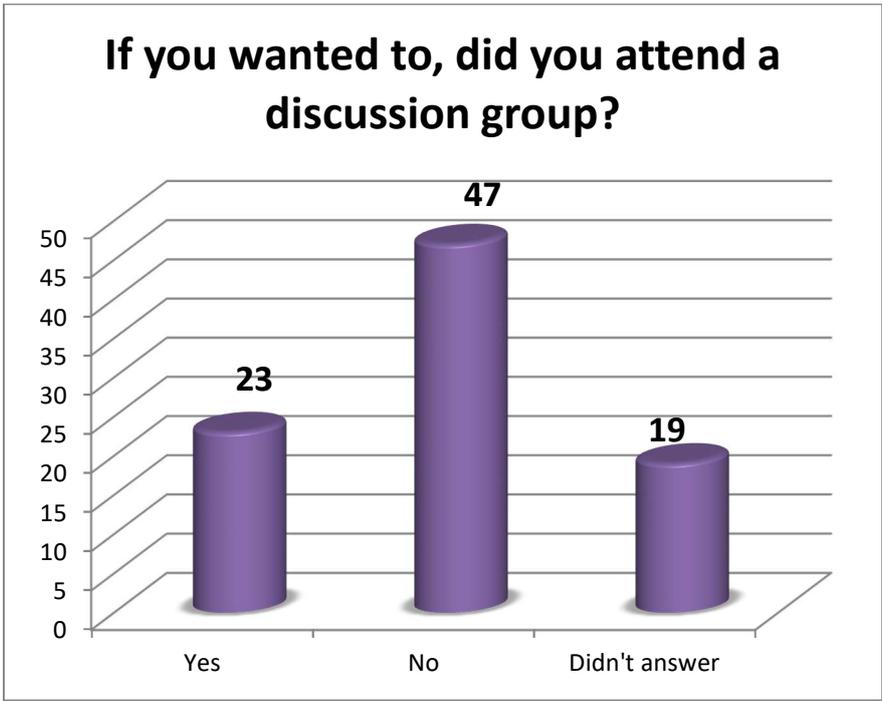


## This kind of event really helps to share information on autism



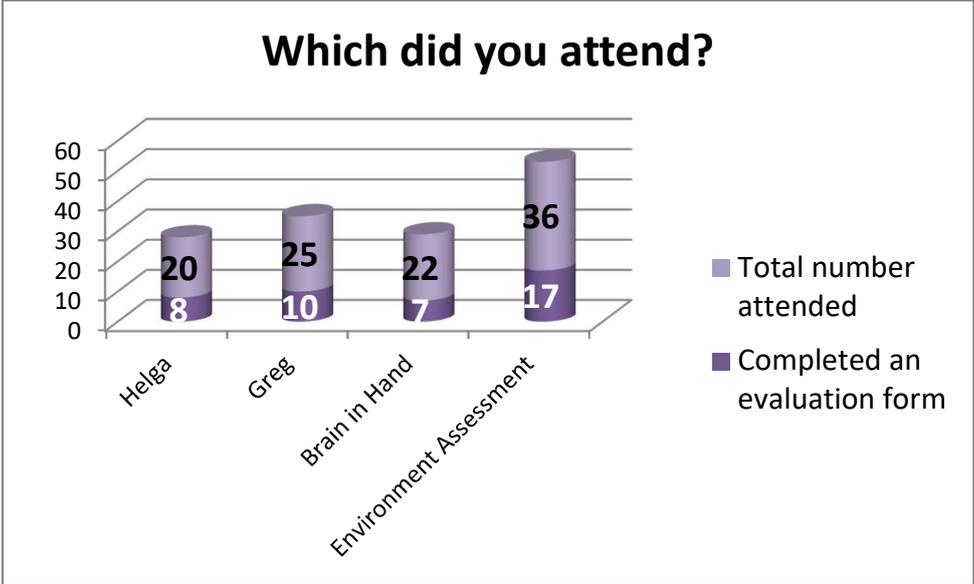
## Comments

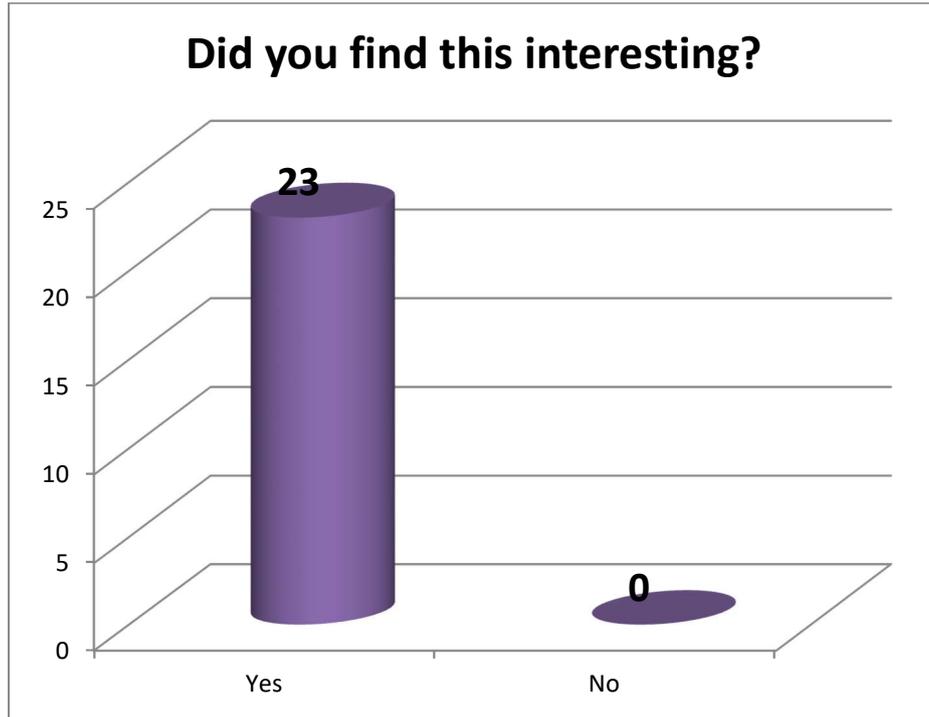
- This works well if you know what you are looking for. Otherwise it's great for inducing brain fog.
- Overall could do with more promotion, but a good event all the same.
- I only got to attend one talk as all full.
- Excellent information.
- Give John (sports guy) a stand!
- Evening event?
- I'd have liked to see more advice for children with ASD. Details of activities, places to visit such as sense star.
- Too overwhelming sensory wise for my husband who has ASD.
- We need more organisations supporting young adults with high functioning autism 18-25.
- All excellent.
- Label which stalls are for Adults or Children
- This was my first autism show and I've found it very informative and helpful. Fantastic people who really do want to help me and my son.
- More info on help for younger children please.
- 😊 very informative
- Very helpful and good parking
- It seems that there were less people / parents here this year. Was it advertised well enough?
- Lots of really interesting stalls, learnt a bit about the diverse organisations and groups within Kirklees offering care and support. Only downside no tea or coffee (to pay)!! But not a major issue.
- There seems to be more services and more awareness. Lack of specialised services.
- Consider having a bigger capacity for the presentations.
- V. Good!
- I only found out about the show by accident so there may be a need to review how it is advertised.
- Excellent! It was the 1<sup>st</sup> time I've been but I will recommend it to others for next year!
- Excellent range of support and knowledge. Very good!
- Well organised, autism friendly event full of great info.
- Great information and made lots of contacts to enable me to share good practice and implement changes to our service.
- Very good, lots of information.
- Fantastic event.
- Good balance of providers and discussion groups
- It is a well packaged event. The information's are amazingly helpful and I learnt a lot.
- Would be interested in having a stall in future years. (Left business card)
- Very helpful especially as I am new to Kirklees.
- Thank you for organising the event. Couple of suggestions – larger room for speakers and catering although good quality not well organised.
- Really not happy with being turned away from the talks as there was not enough space in the room. I feel maybe only 50% should be able to book only for talks and the other 50% should have been available for people who may not have had access to book online.
- Being turned away from a talk as not enough room, very disappointing.



**Comments included:**

- Wanted to attend more but no space x 4
- On own at stand
- Some team members attended different discussions





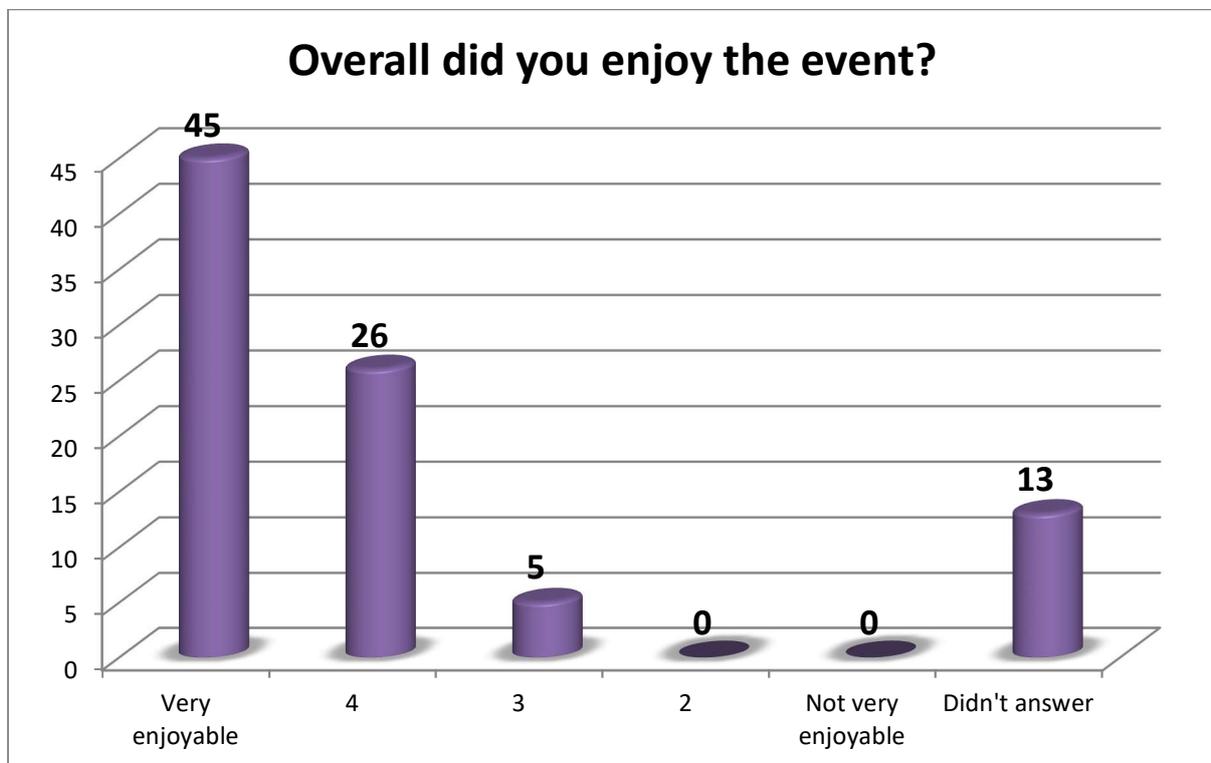
Everyone who attended a discussion group found this interesting. Some people attended more than one.



1 person who attended the Environment assessment commented 'research out of date - was not ok'

### Do you have any other comments to make about the discussion groups?

- Have a bigger capacity room to enable more people to attend.
- Bigger space so more people can hear.
- Really informative.
- Unfortunately I didn't have time to attend any.
- Very emotional for parents. But very commendable to come and talk about the experience.
- Greg excellent.
- Got full fast.
- Could there be more?
- More advertising of discussion groups.
- If we'd know about them in advance we might have attended but they were booked up.
- A fascinating insight into the effects of autism on family life.
- Discussions all very informative and helpful.
- Would like to book onto talks on the day.
- The booking system was not clearly advertised. I wanted to attend sessions but they were fully booked up. Can these talks be arranged to run again at another time so that those who missed out could attend?
- Really enjoyed Greg and Helga. Come again next year!



## **Do you have any other comments to make about the event?**

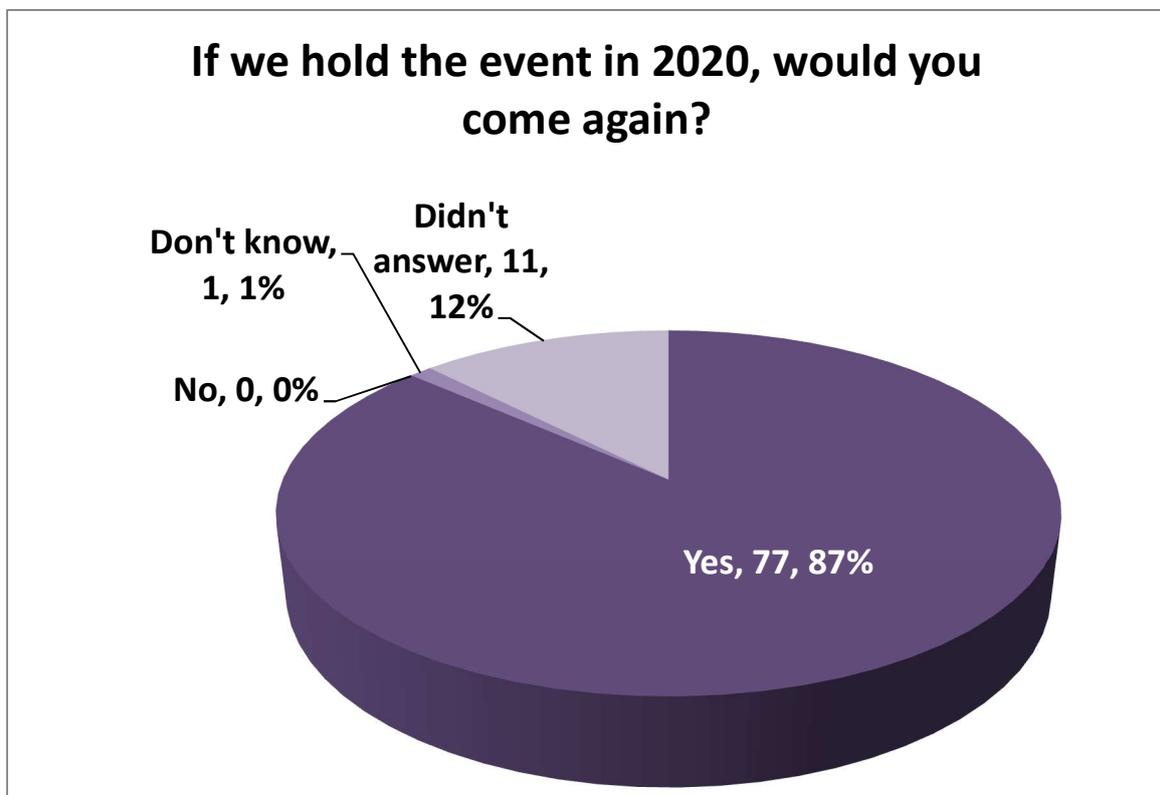
- Excellent
- Fantastic people. Great building. Please push for more senco to attend.
- People friendly and helpful
- It was excellent, particularly the talks from Greg and his mum
- Please push more for school SENCO's to attend
- I know what steps to take when my child is a young adult
- A great range of different stalls very informative everyone friendly and helpful
- Rooms and stalls felt a little cramped
- Very good, lots of info
- V. interested in Brain in Hand. Worth coming for that alone.
- More advertising needed perhaps
- The booking system for talks was very confusing. I spoke with at least 10 people who were not aware of booking onto talks and expressed that they would have attended but there was no space.
- Really well organised and a great opportunity to network. I learned of many services and resources which were new to me and I can also share this information.
- We had no information about who would be here – can't this be emailed messaged.
- A lot of the stands cater for children, I'm an adult and don't have children
- Getting an actual diagnosis of autism is really difficult for older adults particularly in Kirklees. On the children's side Kirklees need to intervene earlier.
- Textile centre is a lovely venue but too small for this event
- Well organised
- Good links to other services
- Fantastic event
- Sometimes difficult to hear speakers due to noise from room next door
- Possibly use a bigger room for discussion groups. All full to capacity so a few people missed out.
- All ok
- Further information for professionals would be helpful as I only heard of the event through word of mouth. Could have sign posted to others if I was more aware of this taking place.
- Great event
- It made me aware of how much overlap there is between what services are available and to question whether there is any way of using these resources better to prevent duplication. My concern was of the number of services who talked about enabling people but when questioned further raised my concerns about how this was done. We need a more robust governance framework to ensure that individuals' needs are met appropriately.
- Would like to know if there is anything for learning disabilities/difficulties as a whole – other shows?
- Couldn't get into Greg due to being full, a thought to run 2 different sessions, at same time so that there was no need to waste a little time might be an idea for future. I had been round the stalls, session could be back to back to allow more attendance.
- Had a very good, informative day.

## What other stalls would you have liked to have seen at the event?

- More on learning disabilities/difficulties
- The presence of the accessible homes team would have consolidated the environment assessment training session.
- All ok
- Kirklees community learning disability stand
- Community LD teams. Calder Kirklees NHS Trust
- One for Central stars youth club
- Community Plus
- EYSEN – Early years special education needs service x 2
- Liverpool is a good example of early diagnosis. Very good show – how to move forward if you're an older adult
- Services catering for adults. Services that help with anxiety. Perhaps services like National Autistic Society
- Sensory world. Many Gates!
- Stands were really good and very informative
- SENDACT, Ed Psych, Social Services LD Team, CAMHS, Autism Diagnosis Team
- SENDACT, Socrates, CAMHS, Northorpe Hall, CDT, LA officers, Ed Psychology
- Family support
- Teaching resources/approaches/info
- Organisations supporting young adults with high functioning autism 18-25

## Was there anything that would have made it more interesting or informative?

- More info on children's activities
- More information on teens 12-18 activities, social, where they can go
- All in all a good event with lots of interest
- Parents asking for advice of EHCP process, perhaps a talk on this process useful for next year?
- No
- Social media info – e.g. twitter handle
- Possibly have a morning show just for professionals
- Not sure. All you seem to have done is coordinate groups having stalls. As far as the show goes that seems to be it. Feels a bit token with no build up or follow up – just like the booking system.
- More space in rooms for the talks, very disappointed couldn't attend any talks 😞
- The sharing of info and good practice is great
- All ok
- Sorry can't think of anything else – it was really good!



1 professional answered yes and commented 'but not at textile centre'

# Recommendations

**1. Hold another event in spring 2020** – Although attendance was less than last year, from the feedback and attendance the event is still a success.

**2. Agree funding for future events** – the cost of holding the event was funded by Kirklees Council Commissioning Team and South West Yorkshire NHS Foundation Trust. Printing costs were covered by the council's service level agreement. Event organisation was undertaken by a planning group of volunteers from the Autism Partnership Board and administration of the event was done by the commissioning team.

**3. Work with communications and stallholders to improve promotion and attendance** – this was a recurring theme from evaluation forms that more advertising is needed.

**4. The time of the event** – holding the event from 10am-3pm works well. This year the event set up, stallholder arrival, set up and pack up ran particularly smoothly.

**5. Encourage a wider range of providers to have stalls** – like previous years we will contact new suggested services, which are appropriate for the autism target group, regarding having a stall at a future event, while keeping within the limited number of the venue. It is important to note that non-attendance doesn't mean services haven't been invited.

**6. Offer discussion groups again** – we received lots of positive feedback about the discussion groups again. People would like to see these at future events but unfortunately there were a few disappointed people who couldn't attend as they were all fully booked. Some people suggested using a different venue with more capacity for this however the Textile Centre of Excellence is still the most appropriate venue in Kirklees for this event. We also need to consider the person doing the talks – they would not necessarily be able to do the talk at all if the audience was bigger, or if they had to do it more than once.

**7. Registering/booking procedure** – every year some people struggle to understand the booking system. We try to make this as clear as possible and for the majority it seems work effectively.

# Kirklees Autism Show 2019

<b>Organisation / web link Description</b>	<b>Description</b>
<a href="#"><u>Active Social Care</u></a>	Offer day and evening services for children, young people and adults, including home care, cleaning, and housekeeping, respite holidays, outings, agency workers, day care at their own activity bases and out of school clubs.
<a href="#"><u>Ambitions 4 Kirklees</u></a>	Provide a day service that builds the skills for work and independent living of young people and adults with learning difficulties and disabilities.
<a href="#"><u>Autism Plus</u></a>	Hold monthly social meetings to enable individuals to meet others in safe supportive environment. This will be on the second Wednesday of every month.
<a href="#"><u>Birch Tree Centre</u></a>	Birch Tree is a modern and dynamic learning centre with a warm, welcoming and relaxing atmosphere. Their aim is to provide a happy and safe environment where everyone who attends can develop to their full potential.
<a href="#"><u>Brain in Hand</u></a>	Brain in Hand is a smartphone app that puts people in control of their support. It provides easy access to reminders, notes, coping strategies and a team of trained professionals when and where it's needed
<a href="#"><u>Bricks4Kidz</u></a>	Bricks4Kidz classes provide an extraordinary atmosphere for children, where <b>we learn, we build, we play...</b> with LEGO® Bricks.
<a href="#"><u>C&amp;K Careers</u></a>	Offer careers information, advice and guidance.
<a href="#"><u>Carers Count</u></a>	Promote the wellbeing of carers so they can continue in their caring role and have a life of their own.
<a href="#"><u>Cloverleaf Kirklees Involvement Network</u></a>	Kirklees involvement network can support you if you are an adult over the age of 18 years, or transitioning from young person to adult services.
<a href="#"><u>Community mental health options service</u></a>	Are a commissioned, community adult mental health service provider from the voluntary sector, who are working together to provide a better mental health service in Kirklees.
<a href="#"><u>HFT – No Limits</u></a>	Support people with autism and their families. Everything they do focuses on helping the people they support live the life they choose.
<a href="#"><u>Huddersfield Support Group for Autism</u></a>	Aims to offer help and advice to families living with autism, including Aspergers syndrome and Pathological Demand Avoidance syndrome (PDA). A confirmed diagnosis of ASD is not needed to join the group.
<a href="#"><u>Job Centre Plus</u></a>	Information on getting assistance and advice from a work coach at your local Job Centre Plus on returning to the workplace if you have a health condition or disability that affects your ability to work.
<a href="#"><u>DWP – Access to work</u></a>	Get help at work if you're disabled or have a health condition (Access to Work)
<a href="#"><u>DWP - PIP</u></a>	You may be able to get help with some of the extra costs caused by long term ill-health or disability
<a href="#"><u>Kirklees Council Additional Needs Register</u></a>	The Kirklees Additional Needs Register is a list of children and young people (0-25 years) with special educational needs and/or disabilities in Kirklees
<a href="#"><u>Kirklees Council – Assistive Technology</u></a>	Information, help and advice about assistive technology such as bathing, cleaning, shopping, door entry, getting dressed, getting in and out of bed, getting up and down stairs, preparing meals and using the toilet.
<a href="#"><u>Kirklees Council – Community Enablement Team</u></a>	Kirklees Council's community enablement team is a service for young people and adults with learning disabilities (including autistic spectrum conditions.) They are a team of skilled, experienced and qualified staff who support individuals to achieve their goals.

<b>Organisation / web link Description</b>	<b>Description</b>
<a href="#"><u>Kirklees Council – Care Navigation</u></a>	Care navigators offer an advice and signposting service for adults aged over 18 and carers whether or not you are eligible for support from the council.
<a href="#"><u>Kirklees Inclusive Sport &amp; Physical Activity Group</u></a>	The group consists of various organisations across Kirklees that offer inclusive sport and physical activity opportunities to all.
<a href="#"><u>Kirklees Council – REAL employment</u></a>	A supported employment agency working with adults who have mild to moderate learning disability who wish to work towards gaining paid employment.
<a href="#"><u>Kirklees Council – Shared lives scheme</u></a>	Shared Lives carers provide day support, or short breaks or a long term arrangement to adults who have been assessed as needing care and support. This unique and flexible type of support is provided in the Shared Lives carer home.
<a href="#"><u>Kirklees Council – Social workers</u></a>	Good person centered planning will ensure the move from children to adult social care services has been well planned and has taken place over a suitable period of time.
<a href="#"><u>Kirklees Council – Specialist Accommodation Team</u></a>	A home of my own is a guide to accommodation options in Kirklees for people with a disability.
<a href="#"><u>Kirklees Council – Specialist Outreach Service</u></a>	Work with educational psychologists to provide support for people for autism, speech, language and communication, physical and sensory impairment.
<a href="#"><u>Kirklees Council – Travel trainers</u></a>	Independent travel training is delivered by trained staff within Kirklees Council's Transport Team. It is an exciting and potentially life changing service for vulnerable young people and adults.
<a href="#"><u>PCAN</u></a>	PCAN (Parents of Children with Additional Needs) are the independent, parent-led forum in Kirklees for all parents and carers of children and young people with additional needs.
<a href="#"><u>PDA Society</u></a>	Provides information, support and training for parents, carers, teachers and individuals with PDA.
<a href="#"><u>Safe places</u></a>	The Safe Places scheme is to help vulnerable people when they go out. Sometimes when we go out things can happen and you need help but there is no one around to ask. You might have lost your bus pass or someone has been unkind and you feel upset and afraid. A Safe Place is somewhere you can go to for help if this ever happens to you.
<a href="#"><u>Southgate School</u></a>	Offer a safe nurturing school where they always see the best in people and believe in them. They celebrate difference, take great joy in their young people and seek to discover and develop their unique potential.
<a href="#"><u>Specialist Autism Services - Calderdale</u></a>	Provide a range of services including group social skills workshops (through an autism specific learning programme), information and guidance, autism specific counselling, employment support, autism awareness training and community outreach support.
<a href="#"><u>SWYT - Autism services for adults</u></a>	If you are over 18 years of age and think you may be autistic contact your GP to discuss your concerns, they will refer you for a formal assessment if necessary.
<a href="#"><u>The whole autism family</u></a>	A community of family members and friends dedicated to supporting the whole family on their autism journey.
<a href="#"><u>TomTag</u></a>	TomTag is a visual resource using picture schedules, timetables and checklists suitable for children, teenagers and adults with autism and giving advice to people on the benefits of using visual supports
<a href="#"><u>Woodley School and College</u></a>	Woodley School and College is a Kirklees Local Authority special school for children and young people aged 5 - 19. Woodley School and College is designated as a school for autism 5 - 19.