

Minister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing and Sport  
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**BY EMAIL**

**Clare Haughey**

Convenor  
Health, Social Care and Sport Committee

15 August 2023

**The Autistic Adult Support Fund**

I am writing to let you know that we will be launching the Autistic Adult Support Fund on 16 August.

This fund will be a vital new source of support for autistic adults and follows a successful pilot. The fund will provide adults with access to support to help understand autism or the impact of an autism diagnosis including peer models of support, reducing isolation and promoting a sense of community.

The commitment to the fund is £1m annually. In this financial year, as we are launching the fund half way through the year, and to ensure that charities are able to spend the funding allocated by the end of March 2024, we will make £500k available pro rata.

The fund will be managed and advertised by Inspiring Scotland on our behalf with charities encouraged to apply by mid September and funding applying from 1<sup>st</sup> October to end March this year.

This funding sits alongside other supports that we make available to autistic people – this includes our annual funding to the National Autism Implementation Team (who work with us and local areas to improve practice and services) and funding this year of £200k to support the Scottish Autism National Advice Line. We also provide support to a range of charities

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through our Different Minds One Scotland campaign which currently has an employment focus.

I hope this is helpful. I am copying this letter to Alexander Burnett, Convenor of the Autism Cross Party Group.



**Maree Todd MSP**

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