

IRELAND'S **AUTISM** CHARITY

Steps To Autism Friendly Accreditation



Steps To Accreditation

Step One - Signing Up

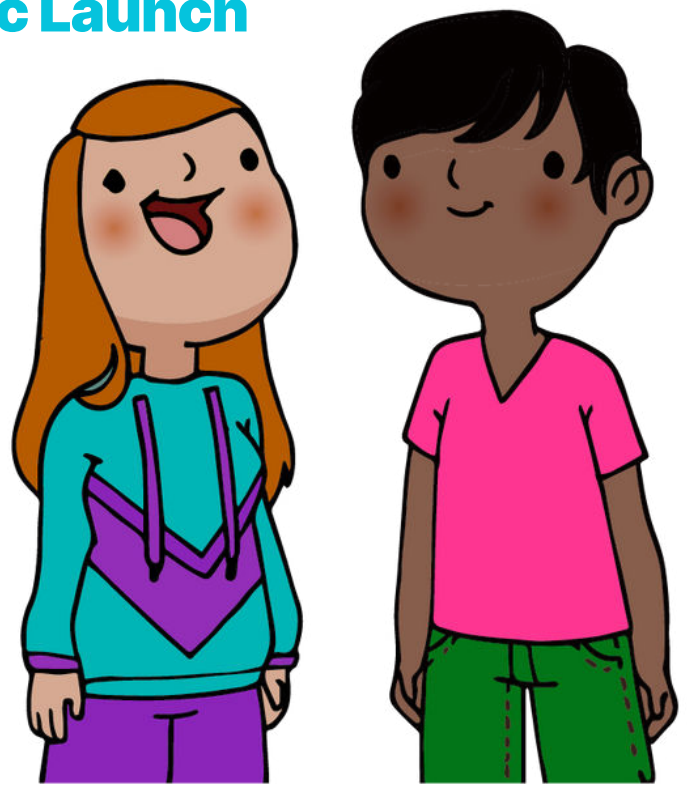
- Ascertain if this is the right way for your community to engage with AsIAm and promote autism accessibility
- Complete an Application
- Sign the AsIAm Code of Conduct
- Forming an initial team

Code of Conduct

- Composition of the Committee
- Values and Ethos
- Governance
- Access to AsIAm materials and support

Step Two - Holding a Public Launch

- Venue
- Format
- Expressions of interest
- Press release
- Social media
- Promotion
- Autism-Friendly measures
- AsIAm participation



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Step Three: Finalising your Committee

- Who are the key stakeholders in your community?
- Are there Autistic representatives?
- Are there parent representatives?
- Is the Local Autism Support Group represented?
- Best make-up for success...

Step Four: Deciding on your scope of work

- What is the Committee's remit?
- What issues are outside of competence?
- Are you a support group?
- Will you run activities?
- Are you focused on training and awareness?
- Are you engaged in advocacy?

Step Five: Determining your governance

- Venue
- Format
- Expressions of interest
- Press release
- Social media
- Promotion
- Autism-Friendly measures
- AsIAm participation



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Guidance on Committees

- Key requirements
- Terms of Reference
- Key roles and points of contact
- Committee Member Code of Conduct

Step Six: Scheduling your monthly meeting

- What is a convenient time?
- Important to get dates in diary and commit?
- In-person or online?
- Action orientated?
- Sub-committees?

Step Seven: Attending a Monthly Meeting of Participating Communities

- Opportunity to hear updates on the work of AsIAm
- Each meeting has a theme aligned with the stage of activity that committees should be at
- Committees can ask for items to be covered
- Strictly one hour
- Recorded for those who can't attend
- Opportunity to share experiences, challenges and solutions
- WhatsApp group



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Step Eight: Constructing your Community Plan

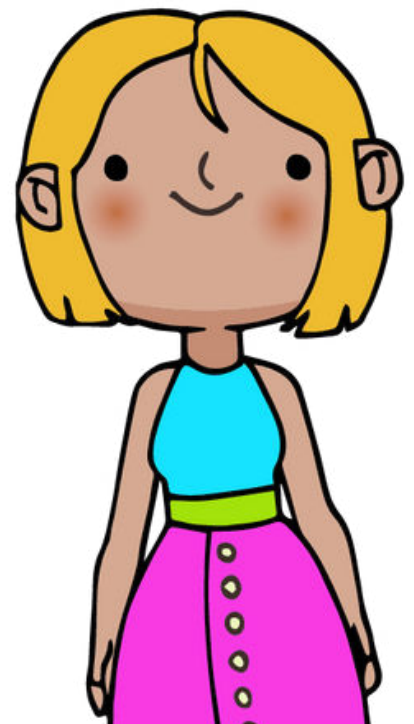
- The earlier in the year this process is completed the easier your work will be
- Really good opportunity to reach shared understanding
- AslAm can review your plan
- Important to consult and this can be another means of driving engagement

Community Plan Template

- Overarching goals
- Built Landscape
- Events
- Community Engagement
- Public Awareness & Understanding
- Individual Sectors
- Fundraising/Funding

Step Nine: Planning Key Events

- Awareness campaigns
- Engagement with schools
- Community events e.g. Christmas / St. Patrick's Day



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Step Ten: Recruiting Champions

- The real test of Committee composition
- Consider making a list or inventory
- Cold calling
- Sample letter
- Talk to AsIAm about national organisations
- Promote as you go (jealousy is a wonderful driver!)

Step Eleven: Training Champions

- +Live events
- +Externally facilitated
- +Online
- +Blended approach
- +This takes time!

Step Twelve: Supporting Champions

- Sensory considerations
- Predictability materials
- Promotional materials
- Certificates
- Keep in touch
- Healthcheck!



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Step Thirteen: Submitting your application

- Journey not a destination
- October/November 2024
- Throughout the year collect as much supporting material as possible
- Portfolio style application
- Engagement with judges
- Special category awards

