



[EXAMPLE] Autism-Friendly Town Plan 2020 -2023

Overarching goals for your town

This should be an overview of your main goals. Your committee should take time to sit down and discuss your goals for the town in the next three years. Everything should be discussed and agreed upon as much as possible. Remember to stay focused and be realistic!

Please ensure you liaise with the Autistic community in your town when creating the plan.

This can be done through a formal survey or focus group or working through existing organisations

Your plan must be innovative, meaningful and sustainable to ensure the longevity of the initiative. Each town is different in size, population and amenities - your plan should reflect that.

Discuss the following:

1. How will you combat the stigma surrounding autism?
2. How will you improve understanding and acceptance of autism amongst the general public?
3. How will you make it easier for Autistic individuals to live and work in your town?
4. How will you improve employment and social opportunities for autistic individuals?

Build landscape

This section covers the town's environment - including any changes in the physical structure of the town. For example, if you choose to implement a sensory garden, key steps towards completing the garden would go here.

Discuss the following:

1. Does your town want a sensory garden? A quiet room/space?
2. Can you develop a website? Do you want to include a sensory alert system?
3. How will you make your facilities autism-friendly?
4. What sensory installations can you put in place to improve the quality of life of an autistic person and their families?
5. What organisations do you need to join up with to make this happen?

Public Awareness & Understanding

Your main goal is to detail how the committee is going to keep the momentum going on this initiative over the next few years. How will you keep Autism on the local agenda?



Discuss the following:

1. Will you have an Autism Acceptance Day in the town? Who will facilitate this?
2. Will you build partnerships? If so, with who?
3. Will you hold annual events? Be specific. How will these be publicised?
Examples could include talks, seminars or sensory friendly events
4. How will you utilise technology?
5. Will you have an annual public meeting for your community to attend?
6. How will you reach 15% of your town's population in Year 1 and 25% by Year 3

Individual Sectors

This concentrates on how your town will fulfil the Autism Champions quotas.

The topics may include the following:

- 1) When and how will you concentrate on specific sectors?
- 2) What year will your committee prioritise sensory accommodations?
- 3) What year will your committee prioritise visual supports?
- 4) How will you go about delivering training?
- 5) How will you support Champions to maintain their training and accessibility measures?
- 6) How will you engage employers?

Fundraising/Funding

The focus is on your funding for the project and how you intend to maintain this long-term.

Discuss the following:

1. Do you need to fundraise or is there sponsorship or other supports you can rely on?
2. If you do want to fundraise, do you have the required governance in place?
3. Will you have an annual fundraising day?

Conclusion

Please keep in mind that the above are just ideas to help you get started.

When creating your three-year plan - please reach out to Autistic individuals and give them a central voice in how you will make the town autism-friendly.

Your plan should focus on what makes your town different from other towns. Our awards will be highlighting what you've done differently and how you've achieved that.

Be creative and unique with your ideas!