



Disability Stockport

Job Application Pack Autism Navigator

'Disability Stockport changed my life. My self-esteem was at rock bottom. I struggled with mental health. People have noticed a physical change in my appearance. I look after myself better. Because of this I'm now asked by people where to get help. I used to feel I had become a burden to all. Now I can help others.'

Member comment

Role: Autism Navigator

Salary:	From £29,777
Contract:	Initial contract 36 months. Subject to annual review
Location:	Disability Stockport, 23 High Street, Stockport, SK1 1EG
Department:	Stockport Centre for Independent Living
Hours:	Full time (37) and part time available. Days by agreement
Annual Leave:	4 weeks holiday plus Bank Holidays
Pension:	Employer pension contribution
Reports To:	Stockport Centre for Independent Living Manager

About Disability Stockport

Founded in 1979, Disability Stockport is a disabled people's user led organisation. This means that we are run and controlled by disabled people, with around three-quarters of our employees and volunteers classified as disabled. We seek to provide a voice for all disabled people in Stockport and Greater Manchester, and to enhance the independence of all our members and organisations we work with.

Together, we:

- Provide support to adults experiencing one or more physical disabilities, learning disability, sensory loss and/or long-term health condition.
- Help enable people to have greater choice and control over their lives, engage in meaningful and rewarding activities, and have the support and skills they need to live independently.
- Campaign on behalf of people with disability issues to ensure people are treated fairly, and work with a wide range of partner organisations to support the different needs and wants of our community.

Website: www.disabilitystockport.co.uk
Email: email@disabilitystockport.org.uk
Facebook: [@disabilitystockport](https://www.facebook.com/disabilitystockport)

How to Apply

To apply, please send a detailed letter online via email, or post, outlining why you are interested in the position and how your experience fits our requirements, plus a CV and completed Equal Opportunities form. Please use the subject line 'SC Autism Support.'

If you require further information (including printed forms, alternative format, or access support), please contact us at the above address.

As an organisation run by and for disabled people, we particularly welcome applications from people with lived experience of disability.

Selection Process Guidance for Applicants

During recruitment, the selection panel will be shortlisting based on what qualities, skills and experience you may bring to the role. The job description (next page) is an overview of the type of work the successful candidate will undertake and is not an exhaustive list.

Disability Stockport is committed to equality for everyone, and we encourage you to apply no matter what your age, caring responsibilities, disability, gender, gender identity, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief and sexual orientation.

We are an inclusive employer. We value difference and recruit by merit based on fair and open competition. We welcome candidates from all backgrounds and from all sectors. We are particularly committed to supporting applications from Disabled/ Deaf people and those from diverse backgrounds.

We will support any access requirements you may have during the recruitment process and ensure that reasonable adjustments are in place as required by the Single Equalities Act 2010.

Deadline

Applications close on 01.12.23 at midnight.

Interviews are expected to be held week commencing 11.12.23

Purpose of Role: Autism Navigator

Ten years after the Autism Act the National Autistic Society reported that the government has not done enough to live up to its promises to autistic people and their families, and that two in three autistic adults don't get the support they need and can end up becoming isolated, developing mental health problems and falling into crisis.

We at Disability Stockport are committed to addressing this issue.

With the support of a National Lottery Reaching Communities grant we are currently looking to employ the only Autism Navigator in Stockport. The reason for this is pressing: many other autistic adults in Stockport report considerable difficulties in accessing any form of support and referrals for adult assessment have increased substantially over the last 8 years, rising from around 60 per year in 2014/15 to around 300 per year since 2019/20, and Stockport currently offer no post-diagnostic support for autistic adults and their families (JSNA 2002 Autism).

The Autism Navigator will support people to gain greater control of their own personal health, wellbeing, and social care needs.

Stockport Centre For Independent Living (SCIL)

Introduced in 2015, the SCIL is the only one of its type in the Stockport region. It was formulated as a response to the changing needs of adults living with a disability or long term limiting condition and their carers, and against a background of swingeing government cuts to disabled people. Its goal: to enable disabled people to maintain their independence, have improved life chances, and be less socially isolated.

The SCIL provides the borough's disabled people with a major opportunity to increase their choice and control over the services that are run by organisations that support them. More than that, it is a major arena for inclusion, employment and innovation where disabled people create new and better services and opportunities together.

The SCIL is a key part of the preventative service landscape within Stockport, supporting well over 500 people monthly (and rising).

Duties and Responsibilities

The post holder will be proactive and work collaboratively with individuals to identify their strengths, assets and opportunities to make a positive difference to their lives and communities. You will benefit from a supportive working environment and being part of our fantastic and diverse team, working to achieve our vision of an equal and inclusive society.

The main duties of the post are to:

- Empower autistic people to get the support they need to live the life they choose
- Support autistic people age 18+ to gain greater control of their own personal health, wellbeing, and social care needs
- Manage enquiries from the public and other agencies in a professional and confidential manner
- Work collaboratively with other services across the voluntary and public sector as part of the preventative network
- Support people with autism to maintain independence at home or in a supported setting. Including adaptations and other assistive technology or services
- Assist with money management and housing support
- To help facilitate a regular autism social group
- Support the promotion of the Stockport Centre for Independent Living and the development of other services to enable adults with autism to lead fulfilling and rewarding lives
- Access health services and activities to increase options for people to manage their health and wellbeing
- Provide direct guidance and practical support to local providers, for better engagement with individuals and families of people with autism
- To help develop and facilitate autism awareness sessions alongside people with lived experience
- Develop partnerships to secure volunteering, work placement and educational/ training opportunities - including pathways into employment and peer support
- Maintain accurate database records, including peer support activities and case studies, designed to evidence the impact of the service
- Responding in a timely manner to safeguarding concerns to ensure pupils are kept safe from harm.

- To undertake tasks that may be reasonably requested by the organisation as directed by the Stockport Centre for Independent Living Manager

- **Person Specification**

The post holder will have the following skills:

- Experience and knowledge of autism and supporting vulnerable people
- A flexible and innovative approach towards problem-solving
- Comfortable reporting to both the SCIL and allied partners
- Be self-motivated and self-disciplined in managing day-to-day activities, and in working to meet the needs of individuals
- Able to develop good relationships with a diverse range of people, both at a public and senior professional level. Liaison with key partners is an essential component of effective support
- Good oral and written communication
- An awareness and understanding of issues surrounding safeguarding and confidentiality
- To be able to follow through with commitments
- Able to adapt to change
- Good IT skills

‘As a charity, our aim is to eliminate barriers, be non-judgmental, and give holistic support to people - and to be accessible. Not just physically, but in attitude and approach. Disability Stockport has got a feel about it that I have never found anywhere else.’

Staff comment

‘I feel empowered working here.’

Staff comment