

The Shirley Foundation charity closed at end October 2018 and is now "spent out". All remaining monies have been transferred to [Autistica](#)

Its mission was 'Facilitation and support of pioneering projects with strategic impact in IT and Autism Spectrum Disorders.'

Social investments (in roughly chronological order) include:

The Kingwood Trust (now Autism at Kingwood): Residential support service for adults with autism – later extended to include Kingwood College.

Worshipful Company of Information Technologists: To establish its charitable arm and purchase the IT Hall – the first new livery hall in the City for 50 years.

Prior's Court School: State-of-the-art day and residential school for pupils with autism, learning disability and challenging behaviours. Later extended to include Young Adult Centre.

Lifetime Economics: Study of the family and national costs of autism.

Good Autism Practice: Funding the launch issue of this journal.

Autism99: Web conference on autism "attended" by 65,000 people worldwide.

Beyond the Material: The faith needs and role of spirituality in the lives of people with learning disability.

Distance Learning Certificate: A web-based Level 1 course in supporting people with autism. Later extended to be international.

Volprof (now Charity Talks): A series of talks for voluntary community organisations on key management issues.

Music for children with autism: A series of concerts by the Orchestra of St John's and start-up of charity.

All-Party Parliamentary Group on Autism: To establish this group to lobby Parliament on autism issues.

The Fundamental Facts: Reference guide for all issues relating to people with learning disability.

Autismconnect: Portal website on autism. Later combined with Autism Cymru's AWARES.

Ryecroft Assessment: An outreach autism support project.

Communication Intervention: Research leading to book "Enabling Communication in Children with Autism". Published by Jessica Kingsley Publishers

Institute of Directors: Feasibility of developing an Institute of Charitable Trustees.

Giles Shirley House: Provision (for Wirral Autistic Society, now Autism Together) of state-of-the-art IT facilities in heritage centre with accommodation for 12 adults with autism in a former derelict village hall.

Virtual City: Virtual Reality project to develop social skills amongst adults with autism.

Autism Research Centre: Education CDs to teach emotional cues to people with autism.

Autism West Midlands: Soft loan (still current) to set up autism school.

Scottish Society for Autism (later Autism Scotland): A cross-party Parliamentary Group on autism spectrum disorders including a Parliamentary & Policy Officer post for an initial three years. Later cancelled.

OK Club: A Centre for young people run on Christian principles for those of all faiths.

Housing Options: A home ownership service for adults with autism.

Architects' Guide: A definitive book "Designing for Special Needs" published by RIBA.

Edinburgh School: Refurbishment and improvements to a small autism-specific unit.

Brondyffryn School, Wales: Saving this school for pupils with autism from closure.

Public Information Booklet and Guide to Commissioning Services: Quality booklets on autism.

Foundation for People with Learning Disabilities: Design and build of website.

Disability Equality in Education: Training of people with learning disabilities to contribute to the training for inclusion offered to schools, colleges and education authorities.

Psychological Aspects of Autism: Equipment and patient expenses to brain scan people with autism.

Medical Research: Kaspar, National Alliance for Autism Research in both US and UK, Autism Speaks and Autistica.

Amici Dance Theatre: Support group integrating actors with physical and learning disabilities with neurotypical performers.

Oxford Internet Institute: After an initial feasibility study, this multi-disciplinary institute studies the internet's impact on all aspects of society.

King Egbert's School: A national centre of excellence and demonstration project on inclusive employment of young people.

Resources for Autism: Various services for people with autism and a three year National Advice & Expert Witness Service.

PACE for the future: Autism campaign to improve educational resources for children with autism. Later merged with Treehouse (now Ambitious about Autism).

World Autism Organisation: Support of overseas attendances to an international autism conference.

10th World Music Therapy Conference: Funding of autism therapy presentation.

Sleep Disorders in children with autism: Randomised controlled study of behavioural treatment of sleep problems in children with autism.

Resources for Autism: Feasibility study for WHO's autism awareness "Autism & Asperger's Syndrome – A World Perspective".

Epidemiology of Asperger's: Prevalence study amongst Cambridgeshire school children.

PEACH: Development of clinical services and evaluation of national programme to support parents in the use of LOVASS methodology for autism.

Autism Awareness Year 2002: Co-funding with the Disabilities Trust and BIBIC.

Autism Awareness Days: Support for two years' activity.

Funding Advisory Service: Free advice to autism not-for-profits for up to two days to organise their fundraising campaigns.

New Philanthropy Capital Autism Review: Report on the need for, and metrics of, autism across Europe.

New York School for Autism: Unrestricted grant.

Economic Consequences of early intervention for Autism: Included update of earlier lifetime costs study.

Autism Research Centre fellowship: Study of how the autistic brain distinguishes itself from others.

History of Autism: Conversations with Pioneers: Study of the development of the autism sector worldwide, published by Wiley Blackwell.

IT Infrastructure scanner: Second mock scanner to assist users with autism and other disorders.

Historical Collections Centre: Feasibility and acquisition of the Church of St Cross for Balliol.

Hoffmann Foundation for Autism: Support of work by autistic artists.

WHO – Europe: Sponsorship of project with Conference: European Declaration on Health of Children and Young People with Intellectual Disabilities and their families.

WHO – Global: Increasing WHO's capacity in child mental health to respond to the needs of children with developmental disorders, including autism.

Mortality and Morbidity in People with Autism: A preliminary study only.

An Ordinary Life: To identify innovative solutions to support families with a technology-dependant child by developing personalised and family-centred methods of care.

Patrick Wild Centre for Autism, Fragile X Syndrome and Intellectual Disabilities: Microscopy Unit including staff and consumables (rats).

Paintings in Hospitals: To facilitate an Autism and Disability Loan Scheme.

Roundway Centre: Pre-school Autism Communication Therapy.

Ethics of Asperger's syndrome: PhD study.

University of Oxford: Research into minicolumns as brain markers for autism.

Specialisterne, Ireland: Employment of people with Asperger's.

Global Health Network: Community of practice for autism spectrum research.

National Autism Project: Think Tank for autism to inform national strategy.

ChAPS: Respite service for autism.

Parliamentary Autism Lunch: Roundtable discussion to consider challenges ahead.

Childhood Disintegrative Disorder: Longitudinal comparison study with regressive autism.

Autism Works: Book on employment of people with autism. Published by Routledge.

Research Autism: Quality of life metrics for autism.

Autism at Kingwood: Blog on puberty/sexuality for autism.

National Autistic Taskforce: Study by people with autism into autism projects of their choice - initially inclusion of under-represented people with ASD.

Gordon Research Conference 2018: For the support of Fragile X and Autism-Related Disorders.

UK Philanthropy Archives, University of Kent: Founding of UK-wide philanthropy archives