Autism aware

The charity Autism Berkshire has a range of events & activities across the county to mark Autism Awareness Week & share the support on offer.

Autism is often referred to as a hidden disability. But Autism Awareness Week aims to bring it out into the open and increase understanding.

All About Autism is a one-day conference at The Curve in Slough on Tuesday, 2nd April. Open to parents and carers living in east Berkshire (Bracknell Forest, Slough and Windsor & Maidenhead council areas) and professionals and students, the event will feature autism advocates, experts from the NHS and the University of Reading, parenting specialists, a Q&A session and stalls from local support organisations. Tickets are £5 for parents, carers and students, £10 for professionals, including lunch.

On Wednesday, 3rd April, there will be an information stand at Sainsbury’s in Winnersh, 9.30am to 2.30pm. On Thursday, 4th, there will be an autism awareness event organised by the Windsor & Maidenhead Autism Partnership Board at the Nicholson Centre in Maidenhead. On Friday, 5th, the Swings & Smiles special needs play centre in Lower Way, Thatcham, will host a drop-in autism advice session and coffee morning, 9.30-11am. On Sunday, 7th, head to the Thames Valley Adventure Playground in Taplow for a fun day for Autism Berkshire members and their families.

Autism Berkshire’s chief executive officer, Jane Stanford-Beale, says: “The conference will be a unique opportunity for parents, carers and professionals to hear about several aspects of autism in one place. The emphasis will be on practical advice to help families living with autism and the professionals who support them.”

● Visit www.autismberkshire.org.uk, call 01189 594 594 or email contact@autismberkshire.org.uk