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## Chris Gillberg

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**Christopher Gillberg** has been a Professor of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at the University of Gothenburg, Sweden, since the mid-1980s. He heads the Gillberg Neuropsychiatry Centre since 2010. He is also a Chief Physician at the Sahlgrenska University Hospital and one of the world's most experienced, clinically active child- and adolescent psychiatrists, with more than 45 years of extensive clinical work in treatment of patients and families with complex psychiatric/neurodevelopmental problems.

In 1993 he was Fulbright Visiting Professor at New York University Medical School. He is also Visiting or Honorary Professor at the Universities of London, University College London (Institute of Child Health), University of Glasgow, University of Edinburgh, the Pasteur Institute, and Kochi University, Japan (where he is involved with the Japan Environment and Children Study/JECS). In the past he has been a Visiting Professor at Odense, Bergen (where he started and was PI on the Bergen Child Study), and San Francisco.

Christopher Gillberg has published more than 800 peer-reviewed scientific papers (of which 733 are currently on the NIH PubMed website) on autism, Asperger syndrome, ADHD, Tourette syndrome, intellectual disability, epilepsy, behavioural phenotype syndromes, depression, reactive attachment disorder, anorexia nervosa, and other areas relevant for children's and adolescents' mental and neurological health.

His research ranges from genetics and basic neuroscience through epidemiology and clinical phenomenology to treatments/interventions and outcome. He has written 36 books, which have been published in more than a dozen languages, several of which are standard textbooks in the field of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Autism.



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Professor Gillberg is an honorary member of the Swedish National Autism Society and ADHD Society ("Attention"). He is a member of the Royal Norwegian Society of Sciences and Letters. He is the recipient of many national and international awards including the Fernström Prize for young researchers (1991), the Royal Medal of the Seraphim Order from the Swedish King (2009), the Söderberg Prize in Medicine (2012), INSAR Lifetime Achievement Award (2016), Psync Award (2016) and SWEDE OF THE YEAR IN MEDICINE (2019). He supervises and has supervised more than 50 PhD students at the GNC and at other universities across the world (including in Norway, Denmark, Scotland, England, Faroe Islands, Japan and South Africa). Christopher Gillberg is the most productive autism researcher in the world and is on Thomson Reuter's 2014 list of the world's most influential researchers (all fields).



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## Lilian Handy

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**Lilian Handy** is a Senior Clinical Manager LDA Programme (Northwest) NHSE and Improvement Registered Mental Health Nurse and experienced commissioner of services for autistic people, those with Learning Disabilities and those with Mental Health Needs Supporting Greater Manchester ICS and Lead Provider Collaboratives to deliver the aims of the LDA Programme, including reducing reliance on inpatient bed, improving the quality of care and contributing to strategic development of services.

8 years of working to the Transforming Care agenda and learning constantly...

Mother to an autistic child.



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## Francesca Happe

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**Francesca Happé** is Professor of Cognitive Neuroscience and Director of the MRC Social, Genetic and Developmental Psychiatry Centre at the Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology and Neuroscience, King's College London. For the last 30 years, Francesca's primary research focus has been autism. Her work has explored the nature of social understanding in neurotypical development and 'mentalising' difficulties in autism. She's also actively engaged in studies of abilities and assets in autism, and their relation to detail-focused cognitive style. Some of my most recent work focuses on mental health on the autism spectrum, and under-researched subgroups including women and the elderly. Her research methods have spanned cognitive experiments, functional neuroimaging, exploration of acquired brain lesions, and behaviour genetic approaches. She is a Fellow of the British Academy and the Academy of Medical Sciences, pastPresident of the International Society for Autism Research (INSAR; 2013-2015), has received the British Psychological Society Spearman Medal, the Experimental Psychology Society Prize and the Royal Society Rosalind Franklin Award. Francesca was awarded a CBE in the New Year's honours list 2021.



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## Cheryl Knupfer

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**Cheryl Knupfer** (Strategic Lead for Autism) and Nick Rosenthal (Autistic Adult and Co-Chair of Stockport's Autism Partnership Board) discuss their latest work on Stockport's all-age autism strategy and their priorities to make Stockport more inclusive for our autistic community.



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## Stephanie Kyle

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**Stephanie Kyle** is an Architect and Inclusive Design Consultant at Maber Architects, advising other Architects, clients and key decision makers on best practice for inclusivity and integrating inclusive design within every architectural stage. Stephanie goes above and beyond Part M/BS 8300 and PAS 6463 requirements, religion, gender-neutral facilities, safe space, hearing and vision impairment and specialises in neurodiverse inclusive design and design for hidden disabilities. As part of the UK Neurodiversity in Planning committee Stephanie advises on a national and governing body level and is regularly invited to be a guest speaker at national and international inclusive design events. Stephanie also lectures on inclusive design at the University of Nottingham.



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## Greg Loynes

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**Greg Loynes** is Inscape House School's Assistant Headteacher for Admissions, Transitions and Outreach.

Greg is abreast of current thinking around SEND students and how best to meet their needs. Having worked in the field of SEND education for over 20 years with an extensive background in autism & challenging behaviour, Greg leads on outreach projects with mainstream & special schools, numerous local authorities and regularly delivers training on a variety of SEND topics.



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## Andy McCulloch

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**Andy McCulloch** and his wife Amanda have both been actors most of their adult lives. They met working in the theatre in the seventies and went on to have two children together, Chloe and Colette. The family lived in Clapham, south London. Whilst Andy worked consistently as an actor, on TV in series like 'By The Sword Divided' and 'Minder', he took up writing to supplement the uncertain income. In 1991 he co-wrote 'Sleepers' a four part TV series, starring Nigel Havers and Warren Clarke. It was a success and from there on writing tended to take over from acting. This meant he was able to be with the family. Amanda and Andy's elder daughter did well at school, went onto university and built a successful career as a journalist. Colette however had problems at school, never quite fitting in, and was eventually diagnosed as being dyslexic.

This caused Colette great distress but turned out to only be the tip of a mental health iceberg. Working from home as a writer meant that Andy was on hand to help with the family problems. From early in secondary school Colette struggled with OCD, anorexia and anxiety.

Life became increasingly stressful. She had overcome her dyslexia and did extremely well academically but the anxiety escalated. Only when she was 33 was the root cause of her eating disorder found. She was identified as being autistic. Tragically she died, due to failings in her care, at the age of 35. Andy has written a book about her life and struggles with a failing, underfunded, mental health service and an obstructive coronial service, after her death. Colette was a funny and creative writer and artist. Andy features her work in the book. It is edited by Amanda and titled 'Why Can't You Hear Me?'

It is published by Jessica Kingsley Publishing and received positive reviews from Jane Asher president of the National Autistic Society and Professor Will Mandy of UCL. Andy continues to campaign for the rights of autistic people and for changes in the coronial law.



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## Charlotte Moore

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**Charlotte Moore** is an author and freelance journalist. She has written widely on autism-related issues and has spoken at many conferences and other events. 'George and Sam' her account of life with her autistic sons, is published by Penguin. She lives in Sussex with George and Sam, now both in their twenties, their neurotypical brother Jake, and her partner Simon.



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## Jeremy Parr

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**Jeremy Parr** is Professor of Paediatric Neurodisability at Newcastle University. He leads research that aims to improve the quality of life of children and adults on the autism spectrum. Jeremy's clinical work is at the Complex Neurodevelopmental Disorders Service at Cumbria, Northumberland Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust, where he sees young people for autism spectrum diagnostic assessment, or management advice. Over the last 10 years Jeremy has led a programme of research focused on using a Virtual Reality Environment in the treatment of situation specific anxiety, phobia and fear - the research led to a brand new clinical treatment that is now provided by the NHS.



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## Nick Rosenthal

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## Kate Walker

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**Kate Walker** was a Social Worker in a GM authority from 2009 to 2022 based on a Learning Disability Team but with secondments into Transitions, Community DOLs, and latterly to set up a new adults Autism Team. She has post graduate qualifications in Assessing People with Autism (University of Cumbria) and Behaviour Change (University of Derby). Kate is now employed in a newly developed LeDeR (Learning from the Lives and Deaths of People with Learning Disabilities) Review Team, working within the NHS with multi-disciplinary colleagues. Since 2022 people with Autism have been included within the scope of LeDeR reviews. This recognition of the barriers faced accessing health care and premature mortality in this cohort is a good opportunity to improve services. Kate will be joined by senior colleagues for Q&A.



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