

PRESS RELEASE:

Local Charity Autism Early Support awarded over £70,000 in funding to become future-fit

Autism Early Support are proud to announce they have secured a unique grant of just over £70,000 from the CAF Resilience Fund which was created to help the people and causes hardest hit by Covid-19.

The charity can now invest in the build and on-going development of a web-based hub for families and practitioners providing 24 hour access to training, practical strategies and a multi-media library of practical resources. Ultimately, this will expand and future-proof AES services, enabling them to make a difference to more families and support more children with autism and social communication needs.

The funding for the CAF Resilience Fund was provided by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) Community Match Challenge funding scheme, part of the Government's £750 million coronavirus support package for charities. The matched funding was provided by the Covid-19 Support Fund created by the insurance and long-term savings industry.

In late 2020 and early 2021, the first phase of the CAF Resilience Fund provided rapid relief to 645 charities in England to help them survive the initial shock of the pandemic and resulting lockdowns.

For this second phase, CAF identified organisations working with those communities hardest hit by the effects of the pandemic. These organisations include those helping people living with disabilities; Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities; and young people in need of new training and skills in order to give them the best possible life chances. This phase, totalling £20 million, is designed to help charities move beyond survival and help them adapt and rebuild so they are able to look to the future and thrive.

Yvonne Braun, Executive Lead for the Covid-19 Support Fund and Director of Policy, Long-Term Savings and Protection at the Association of British Insurers (ABI), said:

"Since the start of the pandemic, charities and communities throughout the UK have come together to support those most in need. We are thrilled that through the partnership between the Covid-19 Support Fund, CAF and the DCMS Community Match Challenge, that the insurance and long-term savings industry has been able to support the work of [Charity name] so that they can continue their vital work."

Monica Brown from the Charities Aid Foundation said:

"In delivering the CAF Resilience Fund, we have been both humbled and inspired by the work that is happening on the ground in our local communities. We are proud to partner with both the Government and the Covid-19 Support Fund to provide this unique support for some of our country's most vulnerable communities. Congratulations to Autism Early Support and our sincere thanks for all that you are doing."

Sarah Sweet-Rowley, of Autism Early Support said:

“We are very grateful to accept this key piece of grant funding to help us support our community as we rebuild from the pandemic. This funding is a vote of confidence in our work, our purpose and our determination to improve the lives of the people we exist to support.”

Notes to Editors

For more information, please contact:

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About CAF

The Charities Aid Foundation is a leading charity operating in the UK and internationally. Our work connects and enables the vital organisations, institutions and individuals working together to ensure that everyone has a stake in the future. We believe that the agency of lasting change lies across sectors and borders, in the hearts, minds and hands of those driven to make a difference. We exist to accelerate progress in society towards a fair and sustainable future for all.

www.cafonline.org

About the Covid-19 Support Fund

In May 2020, the UK insurance and long-term savings industry, led by the Association of British Insurers (ABI), launched a new fund to support those hardest hit by the pandemic, raising over £100million for charitable causes. With £84m having been pledged in voluntary contributions from across the sector, and £20m in matched funding from the Government, it is the largest sector fund in the UK and a unique initiative within the global insurance industry.

From the outset, the Fund's goals concentrated on areas of most pressing social need resulting from the pandemic, working with a range of charity partners to deliver support to thousands of projects and people across the UK.



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