



# Training Directory 2000/2001

**A Directory of Training Opportunities and Formal Courses available across  
the West Midlands for those with an interest in Autistic Spectrum Disorders**

**West Midlands  
SEN Regional Partnership**

**Annette English and Jeannette Essex  
Regional Facilitators**

## **PREFACE**

This Directory sets out some of the courses available across the West Midlands for professionals working with children and young people with Autistic Spectrum Disorders and their families.

It is by no means a comprehensive list but gives a flavour of some of the exciting developments in training across the region. Some courses are open to any interested parties; others are, at the present time, 'in-house' only.

It is hoped to update and add to the Directory, as more training opportunities become available. For further information about any of the courses, please contact the course organisers directly. For general enquiries, additions/alterations to the directory, please contact: -

Annette English, Regional Facilitator, West Midlands SEN Regional Partnership

Tel: 0121 445 0108

E-mail: [aenglish@discover.co.uk](mailto:aenglish@discover.co.uk)

# West Midlands LEAs

## Birmingham

### 1. Training on autism offered by the Support Services

- a) CPD from the Birmingham Advisory and Support Service (BASS) presented by teachers from the Visiting Teacher Service (Communication Difficulties Team)

2 x 1 day courses for SENCOs, teachers and LSAs in the primary phase: The number of places for each day is restricted to 20 and is always oversubscribed.

This course aims to help teachers:

- understand the spectrum of disorder associated with autism, including Asperger Syndrome, and Semantic Pragmatic Disorder
- know how to alleviate the problems and to raise achievement
- develop and pass on teaching skills that will promote inclusion

The programme includes:

- information on the characteristics of children with autism
- opportunities to discuss the implications of autism through watching videos
- guidance on using a variety of teaching approaches
- guidance on working as a team with parents and the whole school community

1 day module on autism in the 10 day course for SENCOs on Spoken Language and Communication Difficulties

- b) Early Years Training and Development provided by the Visiting Teacher Service and Specialist Agencies

5x1/2 day courses in Autism for all Early Years providers

This course aims to examine and explore the complex nature of the disorder. Strategies and practical advice are offered to help children with autism succeed in a variety of settings.

- c) Joint Training Initiative provided by the Visiting Teacher Service and Speech and Language Therapists (BSCT)

1 day module on 4 day training for SENCOs and LSAs

d) School-specific training provided by the Visiting Teacher Service centred around the needs of individual children with autism in early years settings and schools

## **2. Training for specialist teachers**

- a) ACE course in Autism at the University of Birmingham
- b) TEACCH training at Sunfield School and 3 day course at Northampton
- c) PECS training

## **3. Training from Special School Staff for local mainstream schools**

## **Coventry**

### **Teacher Training:**

Three levels of training exist within Coventry, all provided within the context of their special needs action programme (SNAP)

1. A short course (4 x 3-hour sessions) aimed at increasing the awareness of class teachers working in key stages 1 and 2. The course covers ASD and the teaching approaches commonly employed.

Course Organisers: - Keith Harries and Paula Williams

2. Use of the Oxford Modular Scheme at Worcester College.

3. Training at Birmingham University.

For information on the above, please contact Roger Lickfold, Principal Educational Psychologist, Tel: 024 7645 3953.

### **School-based Training:**

All schools who have a pupil with a diagnosis of ASD are offered training. This is delivered during twilight sessions, or on INSET days; teachers, LSAs and DRAs are invited to attend. Training is delivered on collaboration with a Speech and Language Therapist.

### **Learning Support Assistants Training:**

Devised and delivered by Coventry Autism Support Service, 4 x 3-hour sessions. Course includes Introduction to Autism, educational Implications, and Practical Strategies for the school environment.

### **Parent Courses:**

Course run over 6 evenings and includes all aspects of Autism Behaviour Management, Interventions and The Way Forward. The course is organised by CAMHS who invite all agencies to contribute.

For further information, please contact Jo Tasker, Head of the Coventry Autism Support Service, Tel: 01676 541249

## **Dudley**

1. A five session introductory course to Asperger Syndrome is being offered for the Spring Term 2000 for any adult supporting an Asperger Syndrome/ASD pupil in mainstream schools. (Length of session 1 hour). Run by Specialist EP with a language input from the Specialist Speech and Language Therapist.
2. A 1-day course is being run in conjunction with Dr. K. Gingell, Psychiatrist and two Educational Psychologists on January 13<sup>th</sup> 2000. Content Asperger Syndrome plus ADHD with a focus on Ritalin.
3. The Specialist EP offers contact, individual sessions or problem solving opportunities for all adults supporting the Asperger Syndrome pupil in mainstream schools on a continual ad hoc, informal basis. One or two official meetings per term are also offered.
4. The Specialist EP and Speech Therapist jointly offer INSET to Secondary Schools and will be liaising with those schools who will be receiving Year 7 pupils from September during the Summer Term.
5. The Speech and Language Therapy Service also offers training to NNEBs.

For further information, please contact Helen Thornburgh, Dudley Educational Psychology Service, Westox House, Dudley.

## **Herefordshire**

Herefordshire have trained staff through the TEACCH course at Sunfield School and the course run at Northampton (see page19).

Other staff (3) have additional qualifications from the ACE course at the University of Birmingham or from Worcester College.

Other training on Autistic Spectrum Disorders is 'in-house' and provided by the Educational Psychology Service. The EPS have 3-4 packages which can be tailor-made to the participants requirements for example, an SEN awareness twilight session on ASD for 60 staff from Early Years settings at a cost of £15 per head.

Packages include: Teaching Adolescents with Asperger syndrome (includes presenter notes/teacher notes and OHTs). Training resources which include teaching tools and videos are available to teachers on loan.

For further information on training please contact Fran Jones, SEN Advisor, Tel: 01432 260828

## **Sandwell**

Training for Sandwell staff, parents and carers remains an LEA priority.

The LEA has supported individual staff to undertake additional training and qualifications. This has been funded through Standards Fund monies. Sandwell has also worked closely with the West Midlands Autistic Society to put on in-house courses to raise awareness of autistic spectrum disorders for interested people. The LEA has made considerable investment in this important area. A specialist teacher was appointed to work across all Sandwell schools in September 1999.

1. The Speech and Language Therapy Department has also put on short awareness raising, courses for staff working in this area, concentrating on the speech issues presented by children with autism. These were not certificated and arose from staff training needs within the schools.
2. Schools have also financed single training days from within their own INSET budgets, and the LEA has publicised and supported a variety of approaches which may be helpful to people working in a variety of settings.
3. The specialist teacher and the Development Officer from the West Midlands Autistic Society in Sandwell have developed and presented a 5 day modular training programme on the needs of pupils with Asperger Syndrome in mainstream schools. 40 staff from primary and secondary schools were provided with general awareness training on all aspects of Asperger Syndrome and were given practical strategies to take back to the classroom.
4. Teachers who wish to develop their expertise in ASD have largely undertaken training via the ACE course at Birmingham University, some have extended this into BPhil or MEd levels. Non teaching staff are able to access the post-experience course in Autism also at Birmingham University.
5. The specialist teacher and the development Officer have planned a course for staff working in special schools, offering awareness on autism and strategies for working with pupils with learning disabilities and ASD.
6. The specialist teacher has worked with speech and language therapists modelling social skills groups in primary schools. She is also working in some secondary schools developing social skills packages.
7. Schools have been provided with the following areas of training by the specialist teacher: - Awareness raising of ASD, co-ordination exercises, fine motor skills, social skills groups, circle of friends, assessment and self-esteem. This training has taken place on inset days or during staff meetings.

8. Sandwell has set up a Resource Base for ASD through SRB funds. This is a joint project with the West Midlands Autistic Society and the LEA over three years and its resources can be accessed by parents, carers and professionals with an interest in ASD. This is open to people in Sandwell and neighbouring authorities. Contact Judy Cathcart, project Administrator on 0121 556 7459.

For further information on training please contact: -

Dianne Callicott (Advisory and Inspection Service) Tel: 0121 525 7366  
Ext.8232 or  
Nora Flynn (Specialist Teacher ASD) 0121 561 5612

## **Solihull**

1. Training for staff in Solihull is mainly through use of the Oxford modular scheme, Worcester College. This is funded through schools and the standards fund and is centrally organised.
2. TEACCH training has been provided by Sunfield School.
3. In-house training has been provided to the members of the Autism Working Group of Practitioners. This was centrally organised and funded through the Standards fund.

For further information regarding the above, please contact: -

Noreen Lomasney (Inspector SEN) tel: 0121 663 1047

## Warwickshire

Warwickshire has different levels of training provided across the county.

In-house training:

1. ASD awareness raising-training for school staff provided by the Special Educational Needs Support Service Autism Team. These sessions are typically an hour – an hour and a half long and raise school staff awareness of the needs of a child with ASD. General strategies and approaches are discussed.
2. Training tailored to meet the needs of individual schools and pupils provided by the Special Educational Needs Support Service Autism Team.
3. Training provided by the Education Development Service (EDS):

Courses have included: -

A modular course for Learning Support Assistants accredited by the University College Worcester.

Course Organisers – Educational Psychology Service and DISCS

4. Training provided by Further Education:-
  - i) Use of the Oxford modular scheme.
  - ii) Use of the Advanced Certificate in Education (ACE) course at the University of Birmingham.

For further information regarding training in Warwickshire, please contact:  
Phil Robbins, SEN Inspector, Tel: 01926 412077

## **Wolverhampton**

Wolverhampton aims to have a lead person in every school who has undergone intensive training in ASD.

Wolverhampton uses three main sources of accredited training: -

1. The Advanced Certificate in Education at the University of Birmingham
2. Three day TEACCH training programme in Northampton.
3. A two modular course run by the West Midlands Autistic Society (1 x 2 hour session once per week for two terms).
4. TEACCH training through Sunfield.

For further information please contact: Lesley Rhodes, General Inspector (SEN), Tel: 019022 555283 Ext: 5288

# Independent Training



## Afasic Training and Conferences

Afasic is the UK Charity representing children and young adults with communication impairments.

Afasic offers a range of specialist courses and conferences for professionals working in the field of speech and language disorder, together with events aimed specifically at parents.

Each year a booklet listing Afasic courses is published, which in the past have included:

- Functional Language At Home And School
- Language And Communication Difficulties In The Secondary School
- Language And Literacy
- Understanding Emotional And Behavioural Problems Of Children With Speech And Language Impairments
- Assessing And Supporting Bi-lingual Pupils With Speech And Language Difficulties
- Semantic Pragmatic Disorder

The Afasic Parent Conferences, in April and November offer parents a wide choice of training in a workshop format, on topics such as: -

- Stress management
  - Secondary support
  - Supporting Children with autistic disorders in mainstream school
  - Getting your statement right
  - Annual Reviews and Transition Reviews
  - Communication through Play
  - Accessing the curriculum
- and many more.

In the West Midlands Afasic collaborates with other local organisations to mount training opportunities for both parents and professionals.

The Afasic Training Department can also organise workplace training on specific aspects of speech and language impairment. For more information on this or any of the above services from Afasic, please contact:

Carol Lingwood  
In-Service Training Co-ordinator/  
Conference Organiser  
PO Box 2320  
HOVE  
BN3 6RS

Angela Lea  
Development Officer  
Afasic West Midlands  
5 Westhead Road  
Cookley  
Kidderminster  
DY10 3TG

Tel: 01273 381009

Tel: 01562 852702

## **British Institute of Learning Disabilities**

The British Institute of Learning Disabilities is a training provider, delivering training to both mainstream and special school staff. Most of the training is negotiated and designed on an individual basis to meet specific organisational and staff development needs. All trainers have expertise in the specific areas e.g. ASD and are still professional practitioners: either teachers, psychologists or speech and language therapists.

There are two training modules (Positive Approaches to Managing Challenging Behaviour) which are accredited with the University of Central England at two different levels; one is appropriate at postgraduate level for teachers and the other at pre-degree level for classroom assistants.

Two more training modules on autism at the same levels will be accredited for delivery in January 2000.

The costs for specific in-house training are £470 plus VAT per day and a pro-rata cost for any training that is delivered on an hourly basis.

In addition BILD run a series of workshops, examples are detailed below:

**Course Title:** Understanding Asperger Syndrome

**Style:** One-day workshop

**Topic:** Understanding Asperger Syndrome; the effects of Asperger Syndrome on the person; symptoms of Asperger Syndrome and Strategies to help the child with Asperger Syndrome

**Focus:** An introductory programme for staff working with children who exhibit signs of Asperger Syndrome

**Aims:**

- ◆ To develop greater understanding of the condition known as Asperger Syndrome in order to gain a greater insight into the condition
- ◆ To enable participants to develop and promote positive ways of working with the child who has Asperger Syndrome

**Learning Outcomes:**

- ◆ To discuss possible causes of Asperger Syndrome
- ◆ To identify and examine the symptoms of Asperger Syndrome
- ◆ To examine and discuss the effects of Asperger Syndrome for the child with the condition and the effects on other people
- ◆ To develop positive ways of working with the child who has Asperger Syndrome

**Course title: Understanding Autism**

**Style:** Two-day programme

**Focus:** This programme will consider the causes and effects of autism and look at ways of working effectively with the person who has an autistic spectrum disorder

**Aims:**

- ◆ To understand how autism is assessed
- ◆ To consider the psychological theories about autism
- ◆ To consider different therapies that will help staff to work effectively with the person who has an autistic spectrum disorder

**Learning Outcomes:**

At the end of this programme participants will be able to:

- ◆ Identify the different diagnosis criteria for assessing autism
- ◆ Explain the difficulties with social interaction that the person with autism experiences
- ◆ Demonstrate an awareness of the communication difficulties and adapt their own communication behaviours accordingly
- ◆ Define the various repetitive and or stereotypical behaviours that the person with autism will display
- ◆ Justify the different behaviour therapies which can assist the people they are working with
- ◆ Modify some of their communication techniques to enable more effective working with the person with autism to take place
- ◆ Demonstrate an awareness of alternative therapies
- ◆ Outline the theory of mind principle and identify that this might be applicable to the people they are working with
- ◆ Recognise the different levels of intellectual performance that people who are on the autistic spectrum can display
- ◆ Demonstrate an awareness of the biological and genetic influences that affect the person with autism
- ◆ Question their own practice in relation to the person with autism

**Course title: Understanding the principles of the TEACCH programme**

**Style:** 2-day workshop

**Topic:** Understanding and developing strategies that relate to the TEACCH programme which will promote cued learning for people who have autism or autistic related syndromes

**Aim:** To enable participants to have a greater understanding of the principles of TEACCH and how to use some of the strategies effectively

**Outcomes:**

The workshop has been designed to enable participants to:

- ◆ Consider the effects of autism on a person's behaviour
- ◆ Examine communication functions and how this aspect of development can be impaired for the person with autism
- ◆ Recognise the importance of breaking down the structure of language
- ◆ Use visual clues and or other forms of communication
- ◆ Identify strategies that will enable organisational skills to develop for those people with autism
- ◆ Develop strategies that will encourage social interaction

**Course title: Developing strategies for staff working with children with autism**

**Style:** One-day workshop

**Topic:** Understanding the effects of autism and developing effective work strategies

**Aim:** To enable participants to develop effective strategies for (Educational Psychologists) working with children and young people who have autism

**Outcomes:**

The workshop has been designed to enable participants to:

- ◆ Recognise that autism is a developmental disorder and that many children with autism will have additional difficulties
- ◆ Understand that the difficulties will include some or all of the following perception; memory; emotion; experiencing the world; interacting; communication
- ◆ Consider the strategies that can be used to help to address the issues raised in (2)
- ◆ Analyse and evaluate different teaching approaches so that an eclectic approach can be developed which will match individual needs
- ◆ Consider service provision for the young person who has autism

For further information please contact: Ann Dioprose, Tel: 01562 850 251  
Fax: 01562 851 970

## Contact a Family (West Midlands)

Contact a Family (West Midlands) is the West Midlands regional office of the national charity, Contact a Family. The charity is dedicated to helping families of children with any type of special need, including autistic spectrum disorders. They help in three main ways:

- By facilitating parents'/carers' access to information on any aspect of their child's special needs;
- By bringing parents/carers together and encouraging the development of mutual support groups and networks;
- By working closely with other organisations (statutory and voluntary) to support the development of responsive services for families.

The West Midlands regional office is based in Edgbaston, Birmingham, and covers the following areas: Birmingham, Coventry, Dudley, Herefordshire, Sandwell, Shropshire, Solihull, Staffordshire, Stoke on Trent, Telford and Wrekin, Walsall, Warwickshire, Wolverhampton and Worcestershire. Where possible, training is arranged locally, although some workshops are designed to be regional, and are open to participants from all the above areas.

The content and style of Contact a Family's training reflects the charity's three main aims, as described above. Most sessions are run as workshops, and are designed to respond to the needs and interests of families, and of professionals who work with families. Rather than offer a set programme, workshops are planned as a result of consultation with local parents/carers and professionals, and where required, may be repeated in other areas.

The style of the parent workshops emphasises the sharing of concerns and solutions, aiming to help parents/carers recognise their own strengths and resources. Workshops for professionals, and joint parent/professional workshops aim to facilitate understanding and communication between services and service users.

### Examples of workshops offered to date:

#### 1. Contact a Family Conference: "The Juggling Act"

**Participants:** Parents/carers of children with special needs, and interested professionals.

**Focus:** Designed to explore a range of topics relevant to special needs, including workshops on Working Parents, Negotiating with Professionals, Sexuality, Siblings Issues, Access to Leisure, Complementary Therapies.

## 2. “Brothers and Sisters Are Special Too”

**Participants:** Parents/carers of children with special needs.

**Focus:** An opportunity for parents/carers to share their experiences of juggling the needs of all their children, and to explore ideas for supporting them.

## 3. “Listening Skills”

**Participants:** Parents/carers who use listening skills to support other parents of children with special needs (e.g. support group leaders/helpline contacts).

**Focus:** To help parents/carers recognise and use their own listening skills, and to develop their confidence as listeners; to develop their understanding of what is involved in listening and to explore helpful strategies for telephone and face-to-face situations.

## 4. “Partnership with Parents” / “Working with Families”

**Participants:** Professionals/support workers who are working directly with families who care for children with special needs.

**Focus:** 2 similar workshops, looking at some of the issues that arise when professionals work closely with families caring for children with a range of special needs. Examining the parents’ needs, feeling and priorities, and the challenges that these create for professionals/support workers. Exploring how the voluntary sector may be able to support local services and service users.

## 5. “Looking After Yourself”

**Participants:** Parents/carers of children with special needs.

**Focus:** To help parents/carers recognise the importance of providing for their own needs; to explore the concept of stress and help participants recognise their own stress signs; to share ideas for building their own personal resources and managing stress.

Examples of other possible workshop topics:

- ◆ **Sexuality:** Exploring parents’ feelings and concerns in relation to the sexuality of their child with special needs, and issues to do with growing up, becoming independent.
- ◆ **Keyworkers:** For parents and professionals. Looking at parents’ experiences of services they have received, considering whether a co-ordinated “keyworker” approach might be helpful, and exploring how such an approach might be developed in a local area.

- ◆ **Negotiating the Maze:** Particularly relevant for parents/carers of recently diagnosed children. Helping them understand the services (statutory and voluntary) that they may need to access for support; providing information to help them find the support they need; giving them the chance to share their concerns and experiences with others.

**Contact:** Mandy Addenbrooke / Kirsty Wood  
Contact a Family (West Midlands),  
The Princess Royal Centre,  
4 Church Road,  
Edgbaston,  
Birmingham  
B15 3TD  
Tel. 0121 455 0655  
Email [westmids@cafamily.org.uk](mailto:westmids@cafamily.org.uk)

## **ICAN**

ICAN is the national educational charity for children with speech and language difficulties. They run a range of short courses and conferences for professionals working in the field of speech and language impairment but also run some courses and conferences regarding Autistic Spectrum Disorders.

### **Examples of courses/conferences run:**

1. **ICAN conference** ' Asperger, Semantic Pragmatic or Autistic Spectrum Disorders...? Does management differ?'
2. **Autism workshop:** -

#### **Objectives:**

- ◆ To discuss the problems of differential diagnosis
- ◆ To discuss the range of problems associated with autism and how these may vary according to the child's age, IQ and language level
- ◆ To discuss the practical problems faced by those caring for or working with a child with autism
- ◆ To consider ways of dealing with behavioural problems that can disrupt classroom activities
- ◆ To discuss methods of improving social and communication skills

**Tutors:** Professor Patricia Howlin (am session), Tessa Gittens and Maureen Aarons (p.m. session)

### **3. Practical ideas for the management of children with autism in the school setting**

#### **Objectives:**

To enable course members to:

- ◆ Develop an understanding of autism
- ◆ Consider the implications for learning
- ◆ Consider strategies to facilitate the learning of pupils with autism
- ◆ Develop a whole team approach to meeting the needs of children with autism in school.

**Target Audience:** Teachers and support assistants with limited experience of working with pupils with autism in special and mainstream schools.

**Tutors:** Monica Uden (Head teacher, Dawn House School) and Julia Cook

#### **4. Practical ideas for coping with semantic and pragmatic difficulties in the school setting**

Course description:

This one-day course covers techniques developed within a special school, which may have applications for mainstream schools and clinics. The course focuses on the following aspects of semantic and pragmatic difficulties:

- ◆ Assessments
- ◆ The impact of semantic and pragmatic difficulties on the child's ability to access the curriculum
- ◆ Intervention strategies

#### **Target audience:**

Those who are working with semantic and pragmatic difficulties, e.g..  
Teachers, Speech and Language Therapists, Special Support Assistants

**Course Tutors:** - SLTs and Teachers at Dawn House School

ICAN suggest their schools could offer training on the speech and language difficulties of children with ASD and the impact these communication problems have on the child's ability to access the curriculum and their long-term social problems.

It is also suggested that Dawn House (an ICAN school) can offer training that includes an element of shadowing Speech and Language Therapists, Teachers, Care staff and Support Assistants, showing people best practice in action.

#### **Contact:**

Fiona McMahon (Training and Information Manager)  
ICAN  
4 Dyer's Buildings  
Holborn  
London EC1N 2QP  
Telephone: 0870 010 4066  
Fax': 0870 010 4067

Monica Uden (Head teacher, Dawn House School)  
Helmsley Road  
Rainworth  
Nottinghamshire NG21 0QD  
Telephone: 01623 795361  
Fax': 01623 491173

## **Sunfield – Professional Development Centre**

The Professional Development Centre at Sunfield offers a wide range of conferences, courses, and workshops to educators, carers and other professionals. These range from conferences on national issues, to workshops on care practices, to support and consultancy services to staff in day and residential settings.

There is a strong link with the TEACCH staff at University of North Carolina (USA) through Jackie Wadlow, Director of the Centre who is an accredited trainer for the 1, 3 and 5 day TEACCH courses run at Sunfield.

For further information please contact: -

Jackie Wadlow  
Director CPDC  
Sunfield  
Clent  
Stourbridge  
West Midlands  
DY9 9PB

Tel: 01562 883183      Fax: 01562 883856      E-mail:  
sunfield@sunfieldsch.u.net.com

## **West Midlands Autistic Society**

The West Midlands Autistic Society provides training on a range of educational and therapeutic issues. The Education Advisory Team organises whole day conferences, workshops, awareness raising, twilight sessions etc. according to the needs of parents and professionals.

The WMAS also offers accredited training, the Certificate in the education of children with autism, via the Oxford Modular Scheme. This training is on offer to LEAs to send up to 22 teachers or Nursery Nurses to a local venue, either for twilight sessions or whole day sessions plus 4 twilights. The course is designed to cover issues of curriculum development, language and communication, behaviour, social skills, current approaches and interventions and working in partnership with parent, giving students the theoretical perspectives as well as practical suggestions for the delivery of an autism-friendly curriculum in an autism-friendly environment.

A new course, which commenced in January 1999 entitled "Working with individuals with Autistic Spectrum Disorders" was designed in conjunction with the University of Birmingham to meet the needs of unqualified people involved in the care and education of children and adults with ASD. There are no formal entry requirements, other than proven relevant experience.

For further information, please contact:  
Head of Children's Services  
The West Midlands Autistic Society Limited  
17b Fellows Lane, Harborne,  
Birmingham  
B17 9TS

Tel: 0121 426 4225  
Fax: 0121 428 3710  
E-mail : [WMAS.org@virgin.net](mailto:WMAS.org@virgin.net)

## Higher Education

### University of Birmingham: School of Education

The School of Education offers courses specifically focusing on ASDs, which are taught either on campus or as a distance learning course. These can be taken at level 3 or level M depending on qualifications and past experience. These courses are open to teachers, nurses, social workers, psychologists, speech therapists, parents and others who have higher education qualifications or at least five years relevant work experience.

The qualifications awarded at level 3 include the Advanced Certificate (ACE) – where students study 3 modules over the period of a year, or the BPhil – where students study 4 modules and write a 10,000 word dissertation.

The qualifications awarded at Level M include the Postgraduate Certificate (PGC) – where students study 3 modules over the period of a year, or the Postgraduate Diploma (PGDip) – where students study 6 modules over 2 years, or the MEd – where students study 6 modules and write a 15,000 word dissertation

The course leads to the award of a formal qualification of a Post experience Certificate from the University of Birmingham, which will provide evidence of a basis of competency within the field of ASD. It is designed for classroom support assistants, residential social workers, instructors and parents.

It is also hoped to develop a further Certificate in Higher Education by the year 2001, which will also be offered as a distance-learning course.

#### **Course content:**

Module 11 11475 aims to provide a knowledge of the main impairments in autism and of the continuum of educational provision. Students will be made aware of the educational needs of pupils with autism arising from the triad of impairments underlying autistic spectrum disorders and the way these will vary according to individual differences and a particular patterns of skills and abilities. The education needs of the range of autistic spectrum disorders will be considered, including those with Asperger syndrome and issues of placement and inclusion will be discussed. Problem behaviour in autism, its causes and management are also covered in this module.

Module 11 11459 aims to give the students ways of assessing, evaluating and recording pupils' skills and behaviour; to consider a variety of educational approaches and the National Curriculum requirements; to examine ways of working collaboratively; and to consider current theories and their implications for practice. The module will include ways of supporting parents and working with them and will consider specialist curriculum issues of delivery and content as well as access to the National Curriculum. It also provides a framework within which students can evaluate their own and other approaches to teaching pupils with autism.

Module 11 114559. This module allows individual study in special education planned according to students' special interests and needs in order to permit specialisation under supervision in either a programme of study or a particular aspect of special teaching or form of provision. It is intended that the selected areas study will include some forms of practice, for example, in observation and assessment; in the implementation of a teaching programme; the evaluation of curriculum materials or teaching methods.

Course tutors - Dr Rita Jordan and Ms Glenys Jones

Course fees @ September 2000 for Home and EU students

ACE and PGC £690 (campus) and £1090 (distance learning)  
BPhil and PGDip approx. £1380 (campus) and £2180 (distance learning)  
MEd approx. £2070 (campus) and £3080 (distance learning)

For general enquiries contact: -

The Distance Education Unit - telephone: - 0121 414 3466  
or e-mail: [s.a.cumberworth@bham.ac.uk](mailto:s.a.cumberworth@bham.ac.uk)

For a prospectus and an application form contact:  
Kelly Akram (0121 414 4866) or email [k.s.akram@bham.ac.uk](mailto:k.s.akram@bham.ac.uk)

## **University College, Worcester**

A course designed for Learning Support Assistants and other paraeducators in schools entitled 'Educating Children with Autism' is run at University College, Worcester. This is a single module and part of an integrated CPD modular scheme. It is designed to be at an introductory level and carries 19 credit points at Level 1 or 2.

The Course tutors are an accredited tutor for UCW and deputy headteacher of a special school in the area.

### **Cost:**

The module cost is £135 and includes the registration fee.

### **Length of course:**

Approx. 10 sessions of 3 hours: i.e. contact time is @30 hours, directed and/or non-directed study is @70 hours.

Assessment is 2500 words or equivalent.

### **Future courses:**

In September 2000 it is hoped to run a postgraduate certificate in the education of people with autistic spectrum behaviours. This will carry 67.5 level 'M' credit points and constitute 3 fifths of stage one of our masters programme (the masters degree comprises 5 modules in stage one and a dissertation of 20,000 words in Stage 2). It is hoped that the course will be taught in conjunction with Worcestershire LEA and the West Midlands Autistic Society.

### **Cost:**

This will be £420 although if TTA funding is secured it will be offered at nil cost to 20 teachers.

### **Further details:**

For further details please contact Peter Wakefield, 01905 855045