

**GIRLS ON THE AUTISM SPECTRUM: THE BIG SHOUT!**  
**Call for Action from the London conference held on 27.1.17: A SYNTHESIS OF OPINIONS**

**27.1.17 CALL TO ACTION ANNOUNCEMENT**

**DIAGNOSIS**

- Training for professionals and families to recognise and refer girls with suspected autism or related conditions
- Revision of existing diagnostic tools to include girls with autism
- Addressing diagnostic delays for girls with autism
- A more joined up approach to screening, diagnosis and post-diagnostic pathways for girls

**EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

- Autism and girls-specific training for all educators and families
- More joined up working between all services and families
- Understanding and addressing the complete needs of girls (holistic vs academic achievement)

**RESEARCH**

- In depth research on exclusion and/or school refusal and its impact for girls with autism
- An emphasis on personalised good outcomes for autistic girls
- Investigating links between autism and secondary mental health issues (e.g. eating disorders, self-harm)
- Linking neuroscience with school-based research to learn from the reality of autistic girls' educational experience

**MENTAL HEALTH**

- Training on autistic girls' mental health issues and strategies for professionals and families
- Seeing beyond the presentation of mental health to the autism that may underlie it (and vice versa)

**PARENTS AND CARERS**

- High quality post-diagnostic guidance and support for parents/guardians and young people
- Support for parents/guardians in parenting autistic girls
- Valuing parents'/guardians' and young people's expertise

**EMPLOYMENT**

- Awareness raising among employers about the strengths of autistic girls
- Greater opportunities for supported employment and job coaching