



Making the Council more Autism friendly - questionnaire

Councillors on the Social Care, Housing and Public Health Policy Overview Committee are undertaking a review into how we can make the Council more autism friendly. The review, when completed, will come forward with recommendations to the decision-making Cabinet.

Part of the Committee's review is to establish what we currently do (or don't do) in the Council's public facing service environments, e.g. receptions, facilities, venues etc... to support and make them more accessible for residents with autism. An important part of being autism-friendly for any organisation is to consider the environment of the public space and a useful short read to find out more about this can be found here: <https://happiful.com/making-entertainment-and-public-spaces-more-autistic-friendly/> (<https://happiful.com/making-entertainment-and-public-spaces-more-autistic-friendly/>).

As a manager responsible for a service area with a public facing environment, the Committee would greatly appreciate your input into its review by completing this short questionnaire.

If you cannot respond to each question, that's fine; however, it is recommended you provide any response based on pre-COVID times, unless you have some recent examples during the pandemic that can also be used. Your feedback will be presented in a combined report to the Committee in the coming month.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me in Democratic Services. Kind regards, Liz Penny - Clerk to the Committee (Tel. #0185 or email epenny@hillington.gov.uk (<mailto:epenny@hillington.gov.uk>))

* Required

1. Please enter your name and the service area you are responsible for.

2. What specific public facing service area(s) do you manage? (e.g. reception areas, contact points, public facilities or venues) *

3. Do you use a checklist or guide in your service area to ensure that public facing environments are autism-friendly? If so, please provide details.

4. If you are responsible for a public facing environment (e.g. reception, library etc...) have you considered whether the colours and patterns are low arousal such as cream and pastel shades rather than vibrant colours and patterns which could be visually offensive?

5. Have you considered the general noise level in a public-facing environment?

6. Have you considered if the environment has fluorescent or harsh lighting?

7. If applicable, do 'offensive' smells drift around the building from room to room and have you considered how you might isolate them?

8. Do you make your environments free of unnecessary obstructions and clutter?

9. Have you considered to what extent public information boards, notices, signage etc... are supported by the use of symbols, pictures, photos or objects?

10. Is there a system in place should a person with autism need to escape/leave an environment?

11. Have staff in your service area taken up the Council's latest Autism Awareness training?

12. Please provide any other comments, examples or ideas you would like to feedback about how you make your service area more accessible to people with autism.

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