

# LLOYDS BANK FOUNDATION

for the Channel Islands



## Press Release

18<sup>th</sup> April 2016

### **Autism Awareness month sees local charity boosted by £50,000 grant from Foundation**

The Lloyds Bank Foundation for the Channel Islands has granted local charity, Autism Jersey, £50,000 over the course of the next three years.

April is Autism Awareness Month around the world and there is a range of events across Jersey designed to raise awareness and to help fundraise for the cause. Already this month, Autism Jersey has held a school awareness week and film screenings at Cineworld. On the 17<sup>th</sup> the charity held their 'L'Etacq and Back Walk' to help raise funds, and later this month they will do an abseil down Val De La Mare reservoir dam on the 24<sup>th</sup>.

The Foundation grant funding will be used primarily to support the Chief Operations Officer, Paul Sullivan, in his role.

Nicholas G. Winsor, Chair of Autism Jersey, commented: "We're truly pleased to have our application accepted by the Foundation. The news of our grant award couldn't have come at a better time as it's Autism Awareness month, so to have this funding support secured at a time when we are heavily involved in raising awareness of the condition is ideal."

"Paul Sullivan joined Autism Jersey as Chief Operating Officer late last year. Paul has over 30 years of experience in the sector, which will help to guide the next phase of Autism Jersey's development. His appointment would not have been possible without this generous grant from the Lloyds Bank Foundation, which has supported Autism Jersey since its inception over 10 years ago. "

Jo Le Poidevin, Executive Director, Lloyds Bank Foundation for the Channel Islands commented: "I'm delighted that the Foundation was able to support Autism Jersey for the next three years and to allow them to focus on the delivery of support that they provide which is so integral in the lives of the people they touch.

She added:

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'People are the greatest investment an organization can make and the Foundation is one of the few grant giving bodies that will support administration costs, like salaries, so that charities can cover their own costs and therefore focus on the cause at hand.'

It is estimated that over 1,000 people in Jersey are on the autism spectrum and while all people with autism share certain difficulties, their condition will affect them in different ways. Autism is a very complicated condition and it effects how a person communicates, interacts, and understands the world around them. People on the spectrum may also experience over-or under-sensitivity to sounds, touch, tastes, smells, light or colours.

Autism Jersey is dedicated to the assistance and support for families, individuals, and care givers handling those on the autism spectrum. Support is provided in a variety of forms including fund raising events, counselling and training.

Lloyds Bank Foundation for the Channel Islands works to help eliminate disadvantage experienced by local islanders. They donate money to local charities that, among other purposes, provide family support, create positive opportunities for disabled people, help the homeless, prevent substance misuse, and challenge disadvantage and discrimination. Last year, they donated in excess of £600,000 to local charities.

**[ENDS]**

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**Notes to Editors:**

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The Lloyds Bank Foundation for the Channel Islands is an independently-run charitable trust with its own Board of Trustees. There are three branches to the Lloyds Bank Foundations which spread across England and Wales, Northern Ireland, and the Channel Islands. The Foundations are funded by the profits of Lloyds Banking Group and operate a range of grant programmes to provide funding for registered charities that focus on improving quality of life, creating equality of opportunity and tackling the disadvantage of those who are marginalised in society.

2015 marked the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Foundations, which have distributed over £575m to charities in communities across the UK, more than £15 million specifically in the Channel Islands, which has helped to tackle disadvantage since 1985.