



## Press release

**Date:** 23 May 2016

### **New support for families affected by ASD or ADHD as charity launches Health Champions Service**

Family Action is launching a significant new service to support families where a child has recently been diagnosed, or awaits assessment, regarding an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) or Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD).

The Department of Health has awarded the charity funding for three years to deliver the Health Champions service in three sites; Breckland and West Norfolk, Peterborough and Sandwell.

The aim of the service is to link families with Health Champions - volunteers from the local community who will be recruited, trained and supported by a Family Action Project Co-ordinator and then matched with families for a period of 6-10 weeks.

The service is based on a 'Social Prescribing' model - providing help to patients through a 'social prescription' to access local activities and support and also giving families the opportunity to meet other families facing similar challenges. Family Action and their Health Champions will also be working closely with specialist voluntary and statutory services to widen the scope of support available to families at a time they may find stressful.

David Holmes CBE, CEO Family Action, said:

*"It can be a worrying and challenging time for families when their child is waiting for an ASD or ADHD assessment or when their child has recently been diagnosed. We want this exciting new project to provide the practical help, support and vital local networks that can make a big difference to families at a critical time"*

**ENDS**

#### **For further information and interviews please contact:**

Family Action's Media and PR team

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#### **Notes to Editors:-**

#### **About Family Action**

Family Action is a charity committed to building stronger families by delivering innovative and effective services and support that reaches out to many of the UK's most vulnerable people.

We seek to empower people and communities to address their issues and challenges through practical, financial and emotional help.



Our work is wide-ranging and includes help for parents-to-be, the provision of many Children's Centres in local communities, intensive family support, emotional health and wellbeing services, counselling, mediation and therapies, support in schools and financial grants programmes. Family Action is also recognised as a leading provider of training and consultancy, offering organisations and their employees services that can help to minimise family issues that may have an adverse impact on work or home life, providing child and adult safeguarding training, and delivering training around Family Placement.

**Registered Charity Number: 264 713**

**Website: [www.family-action.org.uk](http://www.family-action.org.uk)**

**Twitter: @family\_action**

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