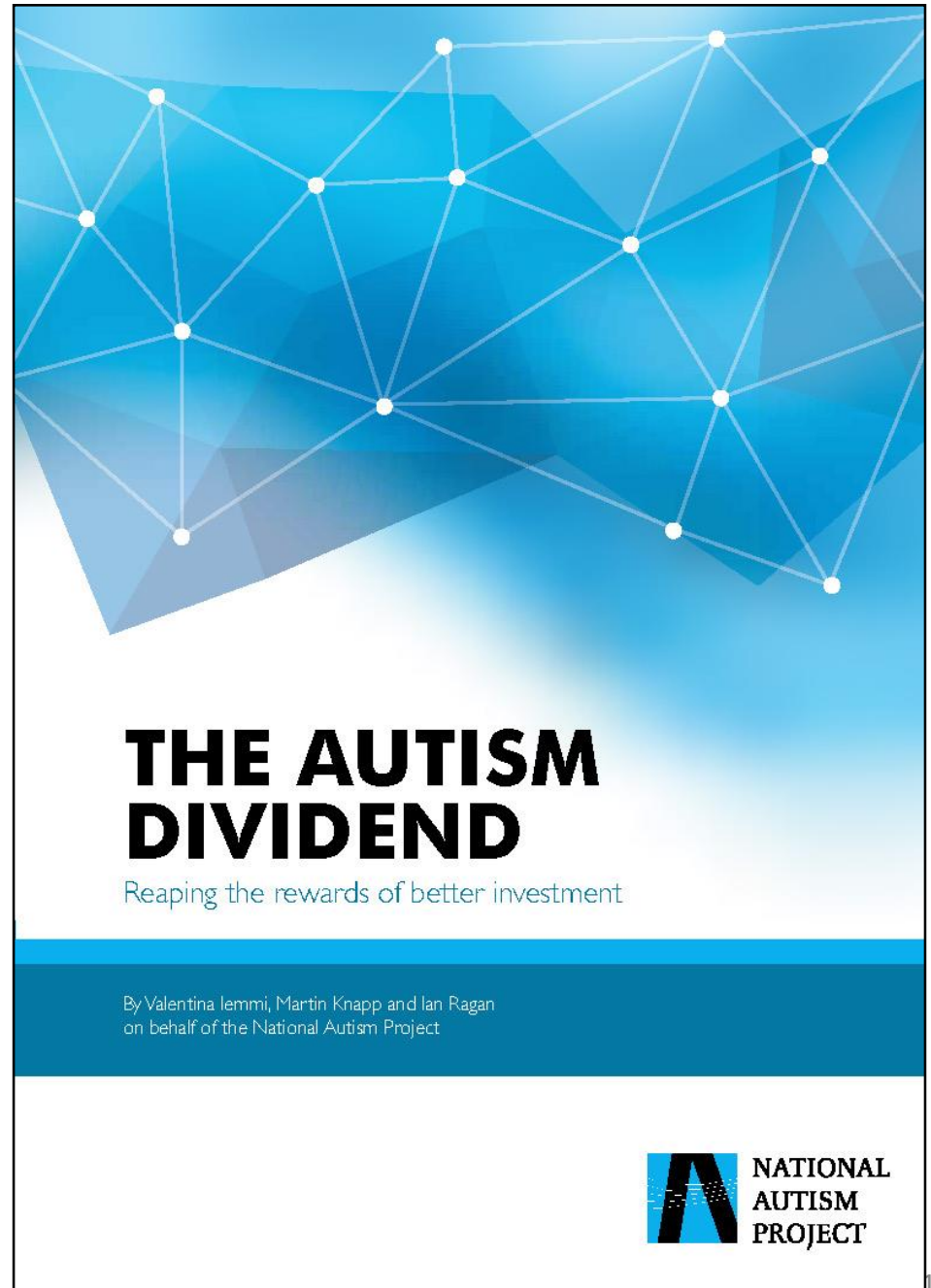




NATIONAL
AUTISM
PROJECT

Hilary Gilfoy
National Autism
Project



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The National Autism Project was set up by The Shirley Foundation in 2015 as a three-year project:

- to map autism research, identify effective, evidence-based and cost-effective practice
- to be the authoritative voice for the dissemination of such interventions and practice
- to advocate for increased research funding in areas where further evidence was required.



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- Strategy Board
- Expert Group
- Autistic Advisory Panel
- London School of Economics
- National Workshops



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“Our work has found that a great deal more could and should be done to generate evidence to shape policy and improve practice in autism”



Four principles

- Personalised actions
- Choice and control
- Addressing inequalities
- A life-long perspective



Nine policy recommendations

- Ensure timely identification and diagnosis
- Provide evidence-supported interventions
- Make the economic case
- Remove barriers to access
- Tackle environmental and other stressors
- Fight stigma and discrimination
- Ensure better transitions
- Co-ordinate action across sectors
- Build better information systems



Research recommendations

From the Report

- Development of new diagnostic tools and interventions
- Research to support personalised interventions
- Research on co-occurring conditions
- High quality, long term studies of interventions
- High quality studies on the real-world implementation of emerging interventions
- Research into ways to change social attitudes
- Studies on the best ways to coordinate actions across different systems
- Concerted efforts on co-production of research with autistic people
- Investment in the collection of data to build information systems



Research recommendations

From the Workshops

- Research to understand why the age of diagnosis has not declined
- Evidence on the value of peer support and mentoring
- Exploring the value of a formal label/diagnosis
- Research into the role of family support
- Research into outcomes for those signed off from supported services



- Screening and Diagnostic Assessment
- Early Interventions
- Social Skills Interventions
- Parent Training and Support
- CBT for Anxiety
- Employment Support
- Health Checks
- Personalised Care and Support
- Assistive and Adaptive Technologies
- Anti-stigma and Anti-Bullying Interventions
- Pharmacological Interventions



The case for more research

Condition	UK economic impact per annum	UK research spend per affected person per annum
Cancer	£13b	£220
Dementia	£26b	£110
Cardiovascular disease	£15b	£26
Mental health	£52b	£8
Autism	£32b	£6
Adult autism	£29b	£1.50

Thanks to MQ for updated research spending figures



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The Campaign:

- Launch of the Report January 2017
- Meetings with Leading Departments – DH, DfE, DWP
- Political Briefings
- National Meetings in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland
- Funders' Forum October 2017
- Website – The Future I'd Like to See
- Events and Conferences
- Creating our Legacy Event December 2017