

The Police and Autism

Ignorance meets Need?

Who am I describing?

- Wrong dress for the season
- Talking to self
- Shuffling steps
- Hand waving
- Wrong eye contact
- Repeating patterns of hands / feet

Why do we come into contact?

- **Offences relating to social naivety.**
- **Offences of an aggressive nature**
- **Offences relating to a misunderstanding of social cues.**
- **People with ASD often adhere rigidly to rules.**

Other reasons

- Inappropriate behaviour / language
- Misunderstanding social cues
- Flight risks / getting lost
- Fascination with water
- Obsessive behaviours

Frames of Reference

- ASD means our frames of reference don't meet
- Body Language is a foreign language
- Facial expressions
- Empathy – situational awareness
- Slang / Idiom

Basic Police Awareness

- Switch lights and sirens off
- Be calm – sensitive to tension in you
- Personal Space
- Use their name at each sentence
- Slow and precise instructions
- Don't shout – it really doesn't help
- Hand flapping is self calming
- Non – invasive injury checks