



## **Autism NI (PAPA) Position Statement**

### **Student and Researcher Protocol**

The following guidelines or protocols are intended to ensure that the contact between students and Autism NI is as constructive and clearly defined as possible.

- At initial contact, Autism NI(PAPA) staff will provide general guidance and information
- Students/researchers will have access to the Autism NI (PAPA) library and study space can be made available by prior arrangement.
- Agreement on project title/focus is the responsibility of the student including approval by the student's professional ethics protocol.
- Access to the Autism NI (PAPA) membership (questionnaire/interview exercise) and database is subject to data protection regulations and is totally at the discretion of Autism NI staff as this will depend upon the volume of similar requests submitted.
- Requests focusing on a geographical area or a specific area of interest within Autism are more likely to be manageable. Widespread regional research is strictly limited to guard against abuse of membership/resources.
- Autism NI (PAPA) staff will not release details of any of the membership to a third party. Questionnaires (accompanied by a covering letter from both student and Autism NI (PAPA) will be distributed directly by Autism NI (PAPA). The cost of postage and stationery will be the responsibility of the student or employing agency.
- Autism NI (PAPA) staff will be available to answer any questions but their prime responsibility is to address the core work of the charity.
- Students/researchers **will not** use Autism NI (PAPA)'s emergency number.