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Press release

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Vince Cable commends local service for disabled adults on their national accreditation

The London Care Partnership (LCP), a specialist residential service for young adults with autism and other disabilities, has been awarded an Autism Accreditation by the National Autistic Society (NAS).

LCP is the first service provider of its kind in London to have achieved accreditation in all their homes. They operate four residential services in Greater London and work closely with 15 boroughs in the area.

Vince Cable, MP for Twickenham, opened the LCP homes in Whitton and Hampton Hill. Dr Cable said: "I have been delighted to be able to open two London Care Partnership homes in my constituency providing support and sheltered accommodation to young adults with autism.

"Over the last decade, there has been a big step forward in the recognition and needs of children with autism, but there has been much less support for adults with the condition who often, as a result, become increasingly isolated and depressed. We need more autism accredited homes".

Mike Bielanski, Managing Director of London Care Partnership, said: "This accreditation is wonderful recognition of the hard work of all LCP's dedicated staff. Our ethos is to ensure that all the young adults we care for have the right support, which enables them to lead better, more fulfilling and satisfying lives."

Robert Pritchett, Director of the NAS Accreditation Scheme, said: "The Autism Accreditation award provides a seal of quality and aims to improve the standard of provision for people with autism. All the staff at LCP have put in a great amount of effort to receive this accreditation and we are extremely proud of their achievements.

"Autism is a lifelong and disabling condition, but with the right support, at the right time, people with autism can flourish."

Autism Accreditation provides an autism-specific quality assurance programme for over 300 organisations throughout the UK and across the globe: clients include local authorities, NHS trusts, education authorities, local autism societies and private companies. The Autism Accreditation award provides a seal of quality and can give



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people peace of mind when choosing a service for a relative or friend. For more information please visit <http://www.autism.org.uk/accreditation>

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Notes to editors:

- Autism is a lifelong developmental disability that affects how a person communicates with, and relates to, other people. It also affects how they make sense of the world around them. It is a spectrum condition, which means that, while all people with autism share certain difficulties, their condition will affect them in different ways. Some people with autism are able to live relatively independent lives but others may have accompanying learning disabilities and need a lifetime of specialist support. People with autism may also experience over- or under-sensitivity to sounds, touch, tastes, smells, light or colours.
- Asperger syndrome is a form of autism. People with Asperger syndrome are often of average or above average intelligence. They have fewer problems with speech but may still have difficulties with understanding and processing language.
- The National Autistic Society is the UK's leading charity for people with autism and their families. Founded in 1962, it continues to spearhead national and international initiatives and provide a strong voice for all people with autism. The NAS provides a wide range of services to help people with autism and Asperger syndrome live their lives with as much independence as possible.
- The NAS relies on the support of its members and donors to continue its vital work for people with autism. To become a member, make a donation or to find out more about the work of the NAS, visit the NAS website www.autism.org.uk
- For more information about autism and for help in your area, call the NAS Autism Helpline on: 0808 800 4104 10am-4pm, Monday to Friday, (free from landlines and most mobiles).
- The NAS Autism Services Directory is the UK's most comprehensive directory of services and events for people with autism. Visit www.autism.org.uk/autismdirectory to find autism services and support networks in your area.