

PRESS RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FAO: LOCAL REPORTERS
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DAVID TORRANCE MSP SUPPORTS AUTISM HOUR CAMPAIGN



Local MSP, David Torrance showed his support to The National Autistic Society Scotland's campaign 'Autism Hour' at a visit to Superdrug in Kirkcaldy.

A first of its kind, The National Autistic Society Scotland's Autism Hour will see shops and services across Scotland and the rest of the UK dim their lights, turn down music and share information about autism for 60 minutes on the week of 2 October.

A recent survey by the charity revealed that 66 per cent of autistic people feel socially isolated, and 44 per cent sometimes avoid going out because they are worried about how people will react to them. Many of us take a trip to the shops for granted but for autistic people it can be an overwhelming, difficult and daunting experience.

Commenting, SNP MSP David Torrance said:

“Frequent loud or sudden noises and bright lights can prove to be a distressing experience for autistic customers, and with an estimated two thirds of autistic people avoiding shops altogether I applaud The National Autistic Society Scotland for introducing this fantastic initiative.

“Bright lights, loud music or strong smells can cause an overload of too much sensory information that can lead to extreme anxiety levels; by taking simple steps our shops and services can help to be more accessible environments for autistic people.

“In Kirkcaldy, Clarks and Superdrug have already signed up to take part, I would encourage more local businesses to help make our community more autism-friendly by taking part in Autism Hour.

“Businesses can sign-up by visiting www.autism.org.uk/autismhour”

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