



PRESS RELEASE

New home for Autism Research Unit

The Autism Research Unit has re-launched under the banner of ESPA Research.

ESPA Research based at the Business and Innovation Centre (BIC) on Sunderland Enterprise Park, is a not-for-profit subsidiary of ESPA (Education and Services for People with Autism).

The Autism Research Unit was originally based at the University of Sunderland. Two of the directors of ESPA Research Paul Whiteley and Kevin Carr have worked for the Autism Research Unit for a number of years and the third director Malcolm Hooper who is emeritus professor of the university has had a long connection with the unit. Lynda Todd who has worked for the Autism Research Unit for many years also joins ESPA Research. Paul Shattock OBE, the founder of the Autism Research Unit and Chairman of ESPA will continue to be involved with work at ESPA Research.

ESPA Research is committed to continuing and expanding the research undertaken by the Autism Research Unit into various aspects of autism and related conditions. ESPA Research will continue their long-term relationship with the University of Sunderland, and plan to release two reports based on research undertaken at the university over the next few months.

Dr Paul Whiteley from ESPA Research says: “We have been based at the University of Sunderland for over 25 years and are eternally grateful to its staff and students. Their support for our research has enabled us to genuinely improve the quality of life for many people with autism and make significant progress in the understanding of this complex condition.”

ESPA Research and the University of Sunderland will be releasing details of new research by the Autism Research Unit over the next few months. To find out more about the work of the ESPA go to: www.espa-research.org.uk

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