



Press Release

Immediate Release

27 April 2026

### **Cygnet Manor Celebrates Differences for Autism Acceptance Month**

A Shirebrook care service recently hosted a day of fun, educational activities to raise awareness of autism.

Located on Central Drive, Cygnet Manor is a 20-bed high-dependency complex care service for men with learning disabilities and mental health needs.

For Autism Acceptance Month, which runs throughout April, the Cygnet Health Care service took part in sensory activities centred on increasing understanding, promoting inclusion and celebrating differences.

Melissa Greenwood, Head of Care at Cygnet Manor, highlighted the importance of the Autism Acceptance Month event.

“Autism acceptance is incredibly important. It helps us to deepen our understanding and ensure genuine inclusion. Acceptance deconstructs the stigma around autism and enables a society where autism is supported and different environments allow individuals to belong,” she explained.

“Our aim was about more than just raising awareness. Our event was filled with positivity, engagement and plenty of smiles.”

Activities at the event focused on senses like touch and taste, with opportunities to sample a variety of foods to compare and contrast flavours.

Individuals supported at the Cygnet Health Care service then came together to share how different sensations made them feel, allowing them to identify their sensory preferences.

Melissa said: “Each of our service users had the opportunity to participate, belong and feel supported by everyone around them during Autism Acceptance Month whilst we celebrated differences. The activities were a powerful opportunity to strengthen peer connections whilst creating greater trust in the safe, calm and nurturing service environment.”