

## Supplementary item 1: Focus group interview schedules

### Focus groups round 1

You can give multiple answers to each question, and you can raise your virtual hand or write comments in the chat in response to what others have said.

1. Which environments present sensory challenges to you?
2. Are there any places you particularly avoid/struggle to tolerate because of sensory aspects of the environment?
  - a. *What about the sensory environment makes you avoid/struggle to tolerate these places?*
  - b. *What changes could be made to improve sensory aspects of these environments?*
  - c. *Pick a type of environment and tell me how you would make it better*
3. Are there any places you like going because of sensory aspects of the environment?
  - a. *What about the sensory environment makes you like these places?*
4. What do neurotypical people often not know about sensory processing differences?
5. Anything else you would like to tell us about experience

### Focus groups round 2

1. In previous focus groups, autistic people said that the following places commonly present sensory challenges for them:
  - Supermarkets
  - Eateries (e.g., restaurants, cafés, pubs)
  - City or town centres, highstreets, or public streets
  - Public transport (e.g., trains, buses)
  - Healthcare settings (e.g., doctor's surgeries and hospitals)
  - Retail shops/shopping centres (e.g., on a Highstreet or in a retail park)

Does this align with your experiences? If not, please tell us what is different for you.

Are there any other places, that we have not mentioned, that are especially challenging for you due to the sensory environment?

We would now like to find out more about how you experience these places. *Please note, due to the session being for 1 hour, we may not have enough time to talk about all the places.*

2. We would like to find out more about your experiences of supermarkets.
  - What sensory aspects of supermarkets can make this environment challenging/inaccessible for you?
  - What are the features/circumstances of supermarkets that can make it a more positive/accessible sensory experience for you (if any)?
  - In an ideal world, how could supermarkets be adapted to make it a more positive/accessible environment?
    - *What type of supports or services would you want to see in supermarkets to support autistic people?*
3. We would like to find out more about your experiences of eateries (e.g., restaurants, cafés, pubs).
  - What sensory aspects of eateries (e.g., restaurants, cafés, pubs) can make this environment challenging/inaccessible for you?
  - What are the features/circumstances of eateries (e.g., restaurants, cafés, pubs) that can make it a more positive/accessible sensory experience for you (if any)?
  - In an ideal world, how could eateries (e.g., restaurants, cafés, pubs) be adapted to make it a more positive/accessible environment?
    - *What type of supports or services would you want to see in eateries (e.g., restaurants, cafés, pubs) to support autistic people?*
4. We would like to find out more about your experiences of city or town centres, highstreets, or public streets.

- What sensory aspects of city or town centres, highstreets, or public streets can make this environment challenging/inaccessible for you?
  - What are the features/circumstances of city or town centres, highstreets, or public streets that can make it a more positive/accessible sensory experience for you (if any)?
  - In an ideal world, how could city or town centres, highstreets, or public streets be adapted to make it a more positive/accessible environment?
    - *What type of supports or services would you want to see in city or town centres, highstreets, or public streets to support autistic people?*
5. We would like to find out more about your experiences of public transport (e.g., trains, buses).
- What sensory aspects of public transport (e.g., trains, buses) can make this environment challenging/inaccessible for you?
  - What are the features/circumstances of public transport (e.g., trains, buses) that can make it a more positive/accessible sensory experience for you (if any)?
  - In an ideal world, how could public transport (e.g., trains, buses) be adapted to make it a more positive/accessible environment?
    - *What type of supports or services would you want to see in public transport (e.g., trains, buses) to support autistic people?*
6. We would like to find out more about your experiences of healthcare settings (e.g., doctor's surgeries and hospitals).
- What sensory aspects of healthcare settings (e.g., doctor's surgeries and hospitals) can make this environment challenging/inaccessible for you?
  - What are the features/circumstances of healthcare settings (e.g., doctor's surgeries and hospitals) that can make it a more positive/accessible sensory experience for you (if any)?
  - In an ideal world, how could healthcare settings (e.g., doctor's surgeries and hospitals) be adapted to make it a more positive/accessible environment?
    - *What type of supports or services would you want to see in healthcare settings (e.g., doctor's surgeries and hospitals) to support autistic people?*
7. We would like to find out more about your experiences of retail shops/shopping centres (e.g., on a Highstreet or in a retail park).
- What sensory aspects of retail shops can make this environment challenging/inaccessible for you?
  - What are the features/circumstances of retail shops/shopping centres that can make it a more positive/accessible sensory experience for you (if any)?
  - In an ideal world, how could retail shops/shopping centres be adapted to make it a more positive/accessible environment?
    - *What type of supports or services would you want to see in retail shops to support autistic people?*
8. Based on what we have discussed today, is there anything else you would like to tell us about your sensory experiences of certain places?