

Press Release SL01/09/03

## For Immediate Release

28<sup>th</sup> August 2003

Ellen Muir & Caroline Tait, branch officers of the South Lanarkshire Branch of the National Autistic Society recently retired after five years of service. During this time, they successfully campaigned for a local Diagnostic team for parents and children in South Lanarkshire Council area. Previously parents had to wait for up to six months for their children to be seen at Yorkhill Hospital.

Ellen & Caroline are now concentrating their efforts on the PALS (Play for Autism in Lanarkshire South), which ran several play schemes for children with Autistic Spectrum Disorders (ASD) over the school summer holidays.

## **Under New Management**

This month, a new committee was set up to take over the running of the South Lanarkshire branch. The members of the committee are Linda Johnson (Branch Officer), Colin Jarvie (Treasurer) and Ross Macfadyen (Communications). The committee members all have children with ASD and are keen to support other families through sharing their experiences.

One way this support is provided is through monthly meetings, held on the second Wednesday of the month in the County Court Rooms, Civic Centre, Andrew Street, East Kilbride. The next meeting, to be held on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> September will include a visit from Dawn Larman, the NAS' National Officer for Scotland.