**11MEDIA RELEASE**

**‘The Lucker Story – about a comfort blanket’**

**An idea created by siblings following an adult Asperger’s and Autism diagnosis**

**Come along with Joy and Christopher into the world of Jenny and her security blanket Mr Lucker as he comes to life when Jenny’s anxious…**

**Miss W-Itch, Scratch and Sniff are keen to steal Mr Lucker’s magic.**

**Can Jenny, Bigum and Titch keep Mr Lucker’s magic safe from their prying eyes and sharp claws as Mr Lucker’s flexible body changes shape…and form?**

What started as a Self-Help Therapy drawing project evolved after Christopher was diagnosed with **Asperger’s** and **Autism** in adulthood. Originally a family project this has now morphed into a book.

**Adult/late** **Asperger’s and Autism** are relatively new illnesses. Many families unknowingly live with undiagnosed conditions. Nowadays this is often spotted during early school years. This recent ‘identification process’ has skipped some generations, so many older people didn’t have the benefit of being identified during school. They still remain undiagnosed and without support.

People don’t know what’s wrong or simply accept it as the norm. Symptoms can sometimes be ‘hidden’ or ‘disguised’ and people are sometimes afraid ‘to be different’. Many find it difficult to articulate what is ‘different’ and symptoms can sometimes be exasperated in challenging situations making it harder to seek help. For many people with this illness social interaction is challenging and they find change fearful, all of which further compounds lack of diagnosis.

There is a shortage of government funding for people with Asperger’s and Autism, with long waiting lists. The isolation around COVID make it even tougher for individuals and their families

You’d be surprised how many suffer… Take a moment to consider if you know someone who might…

**Mr Lucker** explores relationships children have with comfort blankets and with animals. Unconsciously there are also references to some Autistic characteristics and behaviours.

According to a Guardian1report **70% of children have security blankets or toys**. Adults are known to take comfort objects away on business trips to remind them of home. A survey by Travelodge2, ascertained that about **35% of British adults pack a comfort item** – that many wouldn’t admit to!

We’re looking to work with an Asperger’s/Autism charity and intend collect donations from free books given out during November. [https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/joy-cox-1](https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/joy-cox-1?fbclid=IwAR3iLo3O9hS7g8OuB7fcKSkDKIHy1oKR3NuivLWN5_DOcaaoSKUWZ2MHOU4) Joy Cox is available for interview and further comment.

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Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/joy.cox.942> YouTube: <https://youtu.be/Zw5KHtrCyP8>

**Launch: 20th November 2020, 7pm. Facebook zoom and live. PJ, Comfort item and pet party**

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/8315708267?pwd=MVpFWHZWLzg4MEpxMGFZVDJEVVpndz09>

Meeting ID: 831 570 8267 Passcode: joy

**All welcome**