

**SAVE THE DATE:  
OUR NEXT EVENT  
WILL BE HELD ON  
15 NOVEMBER 2018  
AT LINKLATERS LLP  
IN LONDON**

**VIRTUAL REALITY JOB  
CLUB LAUNCHES AT  
“MATTHEW’S HUB”  
OUR NEW MENTOR  
PARTNER BASED IN  
HULL**

**“AUTISM WORKS”  
A NEW GUIDE TO  
SUCCESSFUL  
EMPLOYMENT ACROSS  
THE SPECTRUM  
IS OUT THIS MONTH**

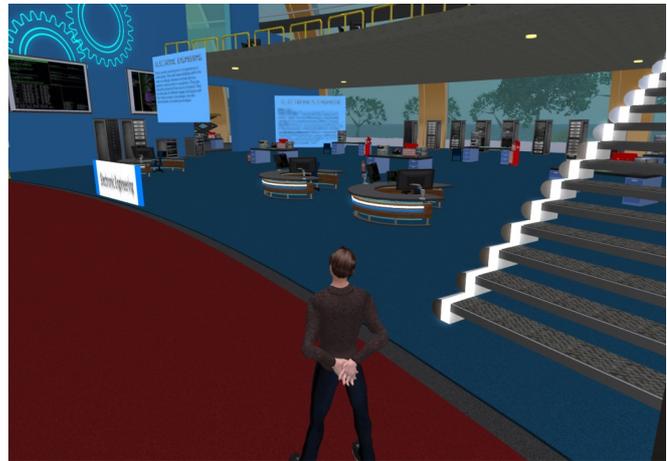
**WE VISIT “PLACE WITH  
PURPOSE” THE TRIAL  
CO-WORKING SPACE  
IN HACKNEY FOR  
AUTISTIC  
FREELANCERS AND  
JOB SEEKERS**

# AUTISM FORWARD NEWS

Join us for our next event “Neurodiversity at Work” on 15 November 2018 at Linklaters LLP in London for an update on our progress and a chance to meet with our specialist mentors and find out more about initiatives to improve employment opportunities for autistic adults. Contact [jane@autismforward.org.uk](mailto:jane@autismforward.org.uk) for further details.

## Matthew’s Hub Job Club

One of our newest mentor partners, Matthew’s Hub is a support service in Hull for autistic people age 16 and over. Matthew’s Hub peer mentor is Carl Cameron who is autistic and has over 20 years’ experience working with autistic adults and children. Carl works as a specialist mentor at the Hub and the University of Hull, is a member of the Hull Autism Partnership Board and is currently working on his MA Autism Spectrum at Sheffield Hallam University. The Hub has recently launched an innovative Virtual Reality Job Club where job seekers can use an avatar to explore locally available jobs, focusing on the major areas of employment around Kingston upon Hull. The Virtual Reality Job Club is offered alongside traditional mentoring and job searches. We are grateful to our supporters for making it possible for Matthew’s Hub to deliver one-to-one mentoring which transforms the employment prospects for Hub members in Hull.



## Annual Mentoring Grants & Our Mentor Network

We have now awarded twenty-three annual grants for specialist employment-focused mentoring to autistic adults across the country. Even this initial sample challenges commonly held beliefs about autism: one third of grants have been to female applicants, the age of the applicants ranges from 19 to 59 and there is enormous variety in the careers they are pursuing including nursery nurse, security, IT, civil service, administration, academic research, catering, accountancy and graphic design. Our mentor network has now expanded further to cover Hull, Cheshire, Merseyside, Bristol and Plymouth in addition to London, Manchester, Birmingham, Essex, Suffolk, Brighton, Surrey, Northamptonshire and Bedfordshire. Details of how to apply for grants can be found on our website [www.autismforward.org.uk](http://www.autismforward.org.uk)



## Interview Workshop Success

We were delighted to hear that one of the participants in the interview workshops held at Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP this summer has just secured an internship at a major investment bank. Feedback on the workshops from the HR team at Weil was also excellent:

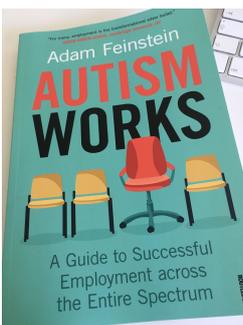
*“We recently hosted a CV and mock interview workshop with AS Mentoring which was incredibly rewarding for both our HR team as well as the participants involved. The session was well-structured and insightful; it allowed us to gain more of an understanding around some of the difficulties that autistic individuals can face during the recruitment process, as well as some of the reasonable adjustments that can be made. We would thoroughly recommend hosting a workshop and would be delighted to host again!”*

Please get in touch with [jane@autismforward.org.uk](mailto:jane@autismforward.org.uk) if you are interested in hosting or participating in a workshop with one of our mentor partners.

## Autism Works

“Autism Works” is an inspiring new book by Adam Feinstein which addresses the lack of understanding of the contributions autistic people can make to the workplace. It is full of real-life case studies and provides constructive solutions for employers and autistic people considering their employment options. It dispels popular myths about autism and crucially tackles the

potential job opportunities available across the spectrum. It also highlights the neglected area of gender differences in the workplace and the costs of autistic women’s ability to ‘camouflage’ their condition. Autism Forward is mentioned in the book alongside many far longer standing initiatives, including one of our key mentor partners, AS Mentoring.



## Fundraising for Autism Forward

Congratulations and huge thanks to mentor Eve Riches and her sighted guide Chris for completing the Great North Run in just 2 hours 18 minutes and raising over £1000 for Autism Forward. If you are interested in holding a fundraising event, donating or supporting us in any other way, please contact [jane@autismforward.org.uk](mailto:jane@autismforward.org.uk). Donations including regular payments to support our work can also be made via our website <http://www.autismforward.org.uk/donate/>



Autism Forward is funding a mentor available for one-to-one advice sessions at Place with Purpose, a trial co-working space for autistic freelancers and job seekers in Hackney specifically designed for the neurodiverse community by Oli Monks, Anna Farley and Thomas Ivens. They are holding an Open Day from 5-7pm on 10 October 2018. If you would like to attend please email [oli@placewithpurpose.com](mailto:oli@placewithpurpose.com) for further details.

[www.placewithpurpose.com](http://www.placewithpurpose.com)