

AUTISM FORWARD
AWARDED RECORD
NUMBER OF GRANTS
FOR 2022-23

GOVERNMENT
LAUNCHES
BUCKLAND REVIEW
TO INVESTIGATE
AUTISM EMPLOYMENT
GAP

LEGAL
NEURODIVERSITY
NETWORK
AIMS TO IMPROVE
INCLUSION &
OPPORTUNITIES

AUTISM FORWARD
ROUNDTABLE
AT MSL LONDON WITH
DISABILITY
CONSULTANTS
"UNTAPPED"

AUTISM FORWARD NEWS

Autism Forward Outcomes 2022-23

In our financial year ending 31 March 2023 we awarded grants for mentoring support to more autistic job seekers than ever before. We are currently supporting over 130 people and continue to see encouraging outcomes. Among our 2022-23 grant holders who have had at least 3 months' support:

- 75% made job applications
- 53% attended job interviews
- 36% joined new clubs or groups
- 55% undertook training or workshops
- 29% secured voluntary roles
- 36% secured paid employment



As we continue to fund support for some grant holders who were awarded grants in previous financial years, we have seen further improvements in outcomes for those cohorts, with an incredible 90% of our 2018-19 grant holders now in paid (58%) or voluntary (32%) employment, 90% of our 2019-20 grant holders in paid (63%) or voluntary (27%) employment, 81% of our 2020-21 grant holders now in paid (67%) or voluntary (14%) employment and 67% of our 2021-22 grant holders now in paid (55%) or voluntary (12%) employment. We anticipate that the outcomes for our 2022-23 grant holders will also continue to improve as their support continues.

Thank you to all our supporters who have enabled us to fund this vital support and thank to all our fantastic mentors and grant holders who have worked so hard to achieve such great results.

The comments from some of our grant holders below and on the [Impact Stories](#) section of our website illustrate the immense value of this support:

"This process is a must for people on the autistic spectrum. It helps with confidence, understanding and dealing with new or unexpected situations. Overall I am more prepared to undertake work and know my strengths and areas for opportunity. I feel more confident in my outlook and positive about the future."

"The support I've received has been incredibly valuable. Working with Karen has changed my life for the better. I have found employment after a long term period out of work - and have gained in confidence unbelievably. Thrilled to have found such an intelligent and supportive mentor."

**AUTISM
FORWARD**

Buckland Review of Autism Employment

The government has recently recently acknowledged the need for action to be taken to boost the employment prospects of autistic people, launching a review to be led by Sir Robert Buckland KC MP. The Buckland Review will consider how the Government can work with employers and help more autistic people realise their potential and get into work.

Since our launch five years ago, Autism Forward has been striving to address all of the issues now being considered by the Buckland Review. We have offered to contribute to the Buckland Review and fully support its objectives. Our outcomes show that one to one specialist support is extremely effective at helping people achieve their employment goals. However, there is generally no government funding for such pre-employment support, which is why our work is so important. We hope that the review will shine a light on this.

Autism Forward Roundtable at MSL

Our latest roundtable was hosted by the global PR company MSL, with a focus on communicating internally and externally as an inclusive organisation. Media organisations have a unique role to play, as through their client work they have the reach and impact to change societal perceptions.

The roundtable was presented by specialist inclusive communications consultancy Untapped. You can read about the event on Untapped's LinkedIn post, which includes practical advice for all organisations communicating about inclusion.

If you are interested in hosting a future roundtable event with us, please contact jane@autismforward.org.uk.

Legal Neurodiversity Network

The Legal Neurodiversity Network is a fast-growing network of neurodivergent employees, partners and allies working in the UK legal services sector. Their aim is to improve the experience of neurodivergent employees by sharing good practices that are already being deployed in law firms and by producing new ideas that will embrace inclusion and widen diversity.

The network currently has around 30 different companies as members, including all the 'Magic Circle' firms, The Law Society, Lexxic and Neurodiversity in Law.

We are looking forward to attending their next event hosted by Linklaters on 28 June 2023 when the group will discuss "Optimising retention and career progression for neurodivergent individuals in the legal profession". Further details of the event and the Legal Neurodiversity Network can be found on their LinkedIn page.

London Marathon 2023

It was a very wet April weekend for the London Marathon this year, but that did not deter our intrepid runner John Leverett who smashed his target time for race, finishing the marathon in a remarkable 3 hours and 28 minutes.



John is following in the footsteps of his mother, Autism Forward's Chair and Treasurer Ann Leverett, who has completed no less than nine marathons. Only eight more to go Jonny!

We are incredibly grateful to John and his sponsors for raising over £4,500 to support Autism Forward, fantastic sum which will help us help more autistic people into employment this year.

If you would like to raise funds to support our work, please do set up a page linked to our Just Giving account or contact jane@autismforward.org.uk