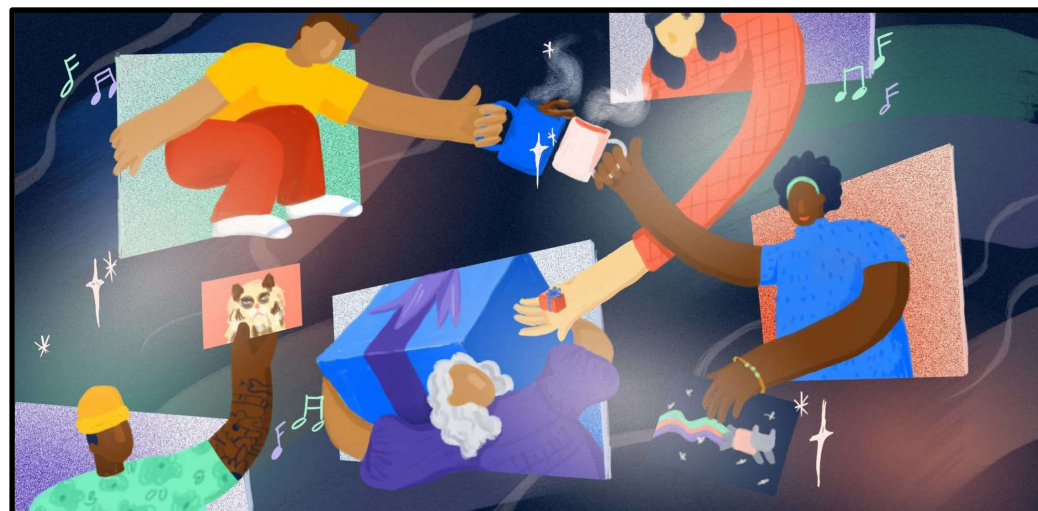




# Autus

Annual Review 2019/2020



## Our Team

**CEO – Donna Thompson**  
(Maternity Leave)

**Head of Service**  
Dawn Duffin

**Session Leaders**  
Kitty Mulvihill

Ross Knowles

Andrea Andreassen

**Service Coordinator**  
Patience Baptiste-Longville

**Mentors**  
James Bradshaw

James Woodvine

**Office Volunteers**  
Adam Dixon, Heather Clarke,  
Daniel Aldridge, Stefan Gordon

**Support Team**  
**Jo Ivers**  
Darshan Raja Rayan

# Autus 19/20

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# 1 Chair's Report

**Eleanor Fisk**

We have chosen the theme of 'Onwards and Upwards' for this year's annual review. This is simply because the year has represented a marked difference in our young service users taking a leadership role in the organisation. One of our goals as a group has always been to help young people to improve their lives and prospects through providing meaningful opportunities to develop their leadership skills. Over the years we have emphasised the need for peer support and mentoring to help build the confidence of our service users to take on leadership roles. 2019/2020 has shown the fruits of this work and we were fortunate to receive grant funding to deliver projects that really put youth leadership at the centre.

We started the year receiving the London Youth Quality Mark which is recognition of our youth centred practice and robust policies and procedures; it is a great achievement for our small team and the Board congratulates them.



Our flagship project was **Connect4D (Connect for Democracy)** which involved our young people undertaking research in 5 key areas of local democracy and creating interesting learning content to demystify and make local democracy more accessible to young people. The project was a resounding success and is proof positive of the high level of technical competence, team working and leadership skills amongst our service users.

With our CEO on maternity leave there was more of a need for us to rely on our young volunteers over the year and they did not fail the organisation. We had lots of activity at our Croydon office and people who had hardly ventured outside of their homes were willingly attending the office to undertake even the most mundane tasks.

Yet again the Board has been reminded that our service users are not simply beneficiaries but are young people able to mobilise, take ownership, set and achieve challenging objectives.

This has been another challenging year for us in regards to funding levels. With London diverting funds to tackle knife crime and other problems we have found fewer opportunities that align with our charity objectives. This has meant continuing our work under difficult circumstances and taking decisions to reshape our service. I would like to thank the Autus team for their flexibility and adaptability over this time. Sadly as we prepare this review we are in the midst of a pandemic so we expect the year ahead to present other challenges for us.

Our review is relatively short but I think you will agree that it is evidence of the impact of yet another year's hard work by the team, volunteers and especially our young leaders.

# 1 | Social Job Club

Kitty Mulvihill – Session Leader



Looking back over the is exciting and I am happy to share about the projects we have worked on as part of social job club.

Job Club meets weekly on Thursdays and has an average of between 8 and 15 participants with absolutely no obligation to attend. People come because they *want* to be there!

We always welcome new users giving them an opportunity to meet peers and to get comfortable with using their avatar in a pressure-free environment.

Team-work is an ongoing theme for social job club. Our team works on projects together that give us experience of collaborative working. We practice trouble-shooting problems together and discuss scenarios for how teams work effectively.

Over the past year we have worked on several projects including

- a **strolling garden in the style of Monet**. Each team member contributed a personal build project to the over-all project and contributed a quote for our stepping-stone inspirations.
- the creation of the Shine Art Galleries "**Idiom Chaos Sculpture**." Each learner contributed a 3D build object to represent a common idiom. For example, Couch potato was a 3d sculpture of a potato with a face, arms and legs, sitting on a sofa. The sculpture contains 18 individual sculptures and is connected by pipes and suspended from the centre of the entrance at Shine Gallery. It can be viewed from the gallery floor, or by the first-floor balcony. Notecards are available explaining each idiom.
- the addition of a **gift shop and coffee shop for the Shine Gallery**. Participants created gifts for the gift shop, and food and drink items for the cafe, as well as furniture, decor, and real art for the walls.

With all of these projects we give time to each participant to work on their individual contributions. This gives each learner a chance to explore and advance their 3D build skills at their own pace, and the chance to ask for help and feedback on an individual basis.

This year has been another of inspiration and motivation for me and the participants and I look forward to working with my social job club team on many more projects going forward.





# 1 Project Spotlight

**Connect4D** was funded by the Team London (Mayor of London) with the aim of raising the awareness of young adults in terms of the influence they could have on local democracy.

For Autus this gave the opportunity to engage with participants in terms of their own growing sense of social awareness through research, meetings and presentation of the outcomes ([https://autus.org.uk/projects/connect\\_4d](https://autus.org.uk/projects/connect_4d))

The project was almost entirely participant led and began with focus groups to explore the concept of local democracy. These groups allowed us to determine the five areas that would be the project focus:- Political Parties, Voting, Assemblies and Councils, Elected Offices and Lobbying. The project members identified a number of people working under the five headings and went to interview them with prepared questions. We found everyone incredibly forthcoming.

All the information gathered was presented in a dedicated sim in the virtual world. The sim represents London with dedicated areas for each topic and can be seen in the video link given above.

The project was very much enjoyed by all and provided tremendous insight and knowledge.



H meets Evan Odell, Disability Rights UK as part of Connect 4D



A 2 year project funded by the City Bridge Trust, **Keytech** takes participants through a 12week course that focuses on identifying the types of digital careers that will match the skills and interests of the participants. In common with the majority of Autus programmes, Keytech seeks to move participants further along the road to being job ready by supporting them in researching potential careers and identifying the steps needed to move towards them.

In this programme the focus was on employment utilising digital skills. The orientation session covers the important topic of cyber security for all as well as it being a possible future career choice. Subsequent sessions cover researching types of roles available and goal setting. The importance of apprenticeships and internships is also addressed. Participants also review or create CV's have mock job experiences and receive job coaching. At all times they keep a record of progress and note companies they reach out to. As always there was some input on wellness and how to present one's best self.

In summary the programme provides a marvellous opportunity for participants to map out some future career options and we look forward to seeing some job outcomes as we progress.



Daniel Interviewed Helen Bailey, Chief Executive of Sutton Borough Council as part of his role in the Connect4D project

## 2 | My Year as a Volunteer

**Daniel Aldridge**

Hello, and it has been an interesting and productive year working with the autism charity AUTUS, which aims to get autistic people involved with digital media, creative projects and into work. Overall, I enjoyed my time with AUTUS, have had a generally good time with the people there and have done many interesting projects. The ones involving the AIM Grid and Second Life were particularly fun and stimulating, and hope we do more projects involving them in the future. Some of the ones that I have been involved in include Connect4D, which used digital assets and models created by the AIM Grid to educate young people about how politics works in Greater London and to get young Londoners aged 18-35 involved in local London politics. We also created an island in the AIM Grid and created virtual models for Connect4D, which was also fun and engaging and I had a good time creating a polling station illustrating voting systems and writing up slides for it.

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- I enjoyed being a project manager and had a good time working in the AUTUS office as a Voluntary Admin Assistant at their office in Croydon.
  - It was also good to work on projects and I was tasked with creating models and also composing slides and presentations in PowerPoint for both the Connect4D project and also the Starting a Business course and presentation.
  - In addition, I worked as an Admin Assistant and Researcher, and created a database of schools and youth club organisations in London, to be used as a reference for the Connect 4D project.
  - This database was compiled at the office in Croydon, and consisted of schools and higher education colleges & youth clubs across 10 boroughs of Greater London.
  - I also took part in several team activities and occasionally took part in the Building Club in the AIM Grid.

“

This is the most significant job I have held, and it has really pushed me in my personal development. I am very grateful for the opportunity, and all the support and feedback I have received.

”

## 2 | My Year as a Volunteer

**H Clarke**

The past year at Autus has seen some major developments for me, as it was during this year that I completed a 6 month Projects and Technical Assistant internship. During this time I took on a number of new responsibilities and pushed at the boundaries of my comfort zone.

I had already been assisting Kitty with various programs including Social Job Club and KeyTech, but as a member of staff rather than a volunteer I took some additional steps. For example, where previously I would put a copy of the chat log on a notecard and pass it to Kitty on the grid, I now had the ability to submit chat log and pictures directly to the organisation drive.

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One of the major changes was that, rather than just logging in for sessions on my laptop at home, I was now commuting to the Croydon office 3 times a week. Along with other tasks, I was now responsible for supervising volunteers and learners in the office. This was an interesting experience as it meant I had seniority over people I would normally consider my peers.

I also took on a major role in the Connect4D project to promote engagement with local democracy. Some of the things this included were transferring research into materials on the grid, contributing to building the island sim, interviewing people in government or other positions connected with democracy, recording and editing video to showcase, and culminating in doing presentations to youth organisations about the project.



# 3 Annual Accounts to March 2020

## Independently Examined Accounts

### Section A Statement of financial activities

Recommended categories by activity

	Unrestricted funds £ F01	Restricted income funds £ F02	Endowment funds £ F03	Total funds £ F04	Prior year funds £ F05
<b>Incoming resources (Note 3)</b>					
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	-	-	-	-	-
Charitable activities	-	-	-	-	-
Other trading activities	-	25,872	-	25,872	41,918
Grants	11,105	26,750	-	37,855	38,185
Separate material item of income	-	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,105</b>	<b>52,622</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>63,727</b>	<b>80,103</b>
<b>Resources expended (Note 6)</b>					
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	-	-	-	-	-
Charitable activities	11,105	20,768	-	31,873	78,697
Separate material item of expense	-	-	-	-	-
Other	-	25,872	-	25,872	25,872
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,105</b>	<b>46,640</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>57,745</b>	<b>104,569</b>
<b>Net income/(expenditure) before investment gains/(losses)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5,982</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5,982</b>	<b>- 24,466</b>
Net gains/(losses) on investments	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5,982</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5,982</b>	<b>- 24,466</b>
Extraordinary items	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
Other recognised gains/(losses):					
Gains and losses on revaluation of fixed assets for the charity's own use	2,000	-	-	2,000	-
Other gains/(losses)	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>5,982</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>7,982</b>	<b>- 24,466</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>					
Total funds brought forward	6,171	-	-	6,171	30,637
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	<b>8,171</b>	<b>5,982</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>14,153</b>	<b>6,171</b>

### Section B Balance sheet

	Unrestricted funds £ F01	Restricted income funds £ F02	Endowment funds £ F03	Total this year £ F04	Total last year £ F05
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Intangible assets (Note 15)	3,000	-	-	3,000	1,000
Tangible assets (Note 14)	1,220	-	-	1,220	1,372
Heritage assets (Note 16)	-	-	-	-	-
Investments (Note 17)	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total fixed assets</b>	<b>4,220</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4,220</b>	<b>2,372</b>
<b>Current assets</b>					
Stocks (Note 18)	-	-	-	-	-
Debtors (Note 19)	-	-	-	-	-
Investments (Note 17.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Cash at bank and in hand (Note 24)	11,271	-	-	11,271	5,289
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>11,271</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>11,271</b>	<b>5,289</b>
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year (Note 20)</b>	<b>1,338</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,338</b>	<b>1,490</b>
<b>Net current assets/(liabilities)</b>	<b>9,933</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>9,933</b>	<b>3,799</b>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>	<b>14,153</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>14,153</b>	<b>6,171</b>
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due after one year (Note 20)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Provisions for liabilities</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total net assets or liabilities</b>	<b>14,153</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>14,153</b>	<b>6,171</b>
<b>Funds of the Charity</b>					
Endowment funds (Note 27)	-	-	-	-	-
Restricted income funds (Note 27)	5,982	-	-	5,982	- 24,465
Unrestricted funds	-	-	-	-	-
Revaluation reserve	8,171	-	-	8,171	30,636
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>14,153</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>14,153</b>	<b>6,171</b>





### 3 | Vote of Thanks

Autus would not be to achieve the outcomes it does each year without the support, both financial and practical, provided by our team, partners, stakeholders, funders and volunteers.

We are particularly grateful for the help of our young service users who step up to take on responsibilities from helping out in the office undertaking administrative tasks to supporting training sessions in the virtual world and peer mentoring service users.

Our funders this year include:

- Team London (Greater London Authority) – Connect4D
- City Bridge Trust – Key Tech
- Wimbledon Community Fund
- John Lyon Foundation
- Awards for Award – (Social Job Club)
- Jack Petchey Foundation



Learn more about Autus at  
[www.autus.org.uk](http://www.autus.org.uk)  
Email: [info@autus.org.uk](mailto:info@autus.org.uk)