

## TFN Impact Report

<b>Name of your Organisation:</b>	Employment Autism
<b>Date of TFN event which you pitched at?</b>	4/7/2018
<b>Name of the project TFN funded:</b>	Employment Autism portal development
<b>Were you able to undertake your project as you outlined in the application?</b>	Yes
<b>Can you describe and/or demonstrate the specific impact that TFN funding has had against your initial objectives?</b>	<p>The funding from TFN is being spent on commissioning content for our website. As per our ethos of employing autistic people, or those with a close connection to autism, we recruited an experienced editor and a paralegal with a background in working in employment tribunals for disabled people, who are both autistic. Our second author has family connections with autism and was asked to write content from the perspective of the job seeker.</p> <p>It has proved difficult to find people who: were available; could write with an appropriate 'voice'; had experience and knowledge of the subject; had the background and qualifications (especially in the legal / HR field). It has taken longer than we had planned to find the right people for these several roles so progress has been slower than we originally hoped but we are pleased with the quality of the content being created.</p>
<b>What portion of the project did TFN fund?</b>	The creation of the content is still underway, but the TFN funding is likely to contribute approximately 30% of the cost of the content needed for initial launch, at which time we will commence services that directly and positively impact our beneficiaries.
<b>How many direct beneficiaries did the TFN funded project reach?</b>	As the portal is not yet launched, there have been no direct external beneficiaries. However, the funding provided has assisted us to employ autistic people in accordance with our values.
<b>How many indirect beneficiaries did the TFN funded project reach?</b>	As yet, none, due to the delayed launch of the portal. However, wider networking by our development manager and board has allowed us to build contacts with stakeholders and begin to plan our launch. Due to the positive feedback we have received, we are confident that there will be interest in using the portal.
<b>Were you able to leverage further funding as a result of TFN support?</b>	No
<b>Did you receive any pro-bono support, volunteer offers or introductions as a result of the event?</b>	Yes
<b>If yes, can you provide details on the support you received.</b>	We received one offer of an introduction, the offer of a talk in a school, and two requests to be kept informed of progress. In addition to this several people approached us to discuss autism in general and our plans in particular. One person shared their autism diagnosis with

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	us.
<b>How important was TFN funding in helping you achieve your objectives?</b>	TFN funding was not essential as we would have been able to find alternative funding
<b>Since presenting at TFN, has your organisation undergone any other significant changes?</b>	The unanticipated passing of our founding chair Geoffrey Maddrell in August 2018 caused a break in continuity of the driving force of our charity. Appointment of two joint-chairs with long involvement in the project and the unanimous backing of the board, has ensured the ongoing commitment to our mission and objects and to realising Geoffrey's vision.
<b>Do you have any other comments or feedback on the experience of the TFN process?</b>	The TFN process enabled us to be face to face with donors – an uncommon and potentially unnerving prospect! It was interesting to see their reactions and get their immediate feedback. Their questions and direct comments, and discussions at the end of the session were enlightening and underlined for us the need for our service. We will update you again once we have assessed our impact after our launch.
<b>Can you tell us any personal stories to highlight the value of the project?</b>	<p>Although not formally launched, we have made effort to publicise our plans, and to consult with and invite feedback from potential stakeholders. The responses we have received have been very positive and this has backed up our belief in the need for this service. Examples include: a teacher interested to know how to support their students, parents keen to know how to prepare their children for the transition to work, autistic people both willing to share their experiences as case studies and to access information and advice which will support them to find an keep work.</p> <p>We are in close contact with an autism special school and an autism provision in a mainstream school – both are interested to work with us to develop reusable advice which will improve the transition of their students into work placements and can be used to spread their learning to other organisations.</p> <p>We look forward to updating you with our future progress and report again post launch.</p>