

Dear MP,

Welcome to The National Autistic Society's new campaign: *The undiscovered workforce*.

For 50 years, The National Autistic Society (NAS) has campaigned for a future where everyone with autism can live the life they choose. Together we can achieve this, by making sure the right specialist support is available for children at school, and for adults wishing to work and become independent.

One of the biggest challenges we face is the need to increase the number of adults with autism in sustainable employment. Because autism affects people's communication skills, some struggle to understand the unwritten rules of the workplace, to manage professional relationships and to interpret instructions. Currently only 15% are in full-time work and 60% are financially reliant on their families.

As an MP, you can play a crucial role in your community, by bringing together the local authority, businesses, individuals with autism, their families and groups representing them. An ongoing dialogue can help tackle the barriers to employment for people with autism, increase awareness and understanding and unlock opportunities.

This folder contains the tools you need to start making a difference:

- 1. A guide for MPs**
- 2. A guide for local authorities**
- 3. A guide for employers**

For more information about taking action to support the *undiscovered workforce* into sustainable employment, or about other issues affecting adults and children with autism, please contact campaign@nas.org.uk or call 020 7923 5799.

Thank you for your support.

With kind regards,



Mark Lever

Chief Executive, The National Autistic Society



Making a difference for 50 years