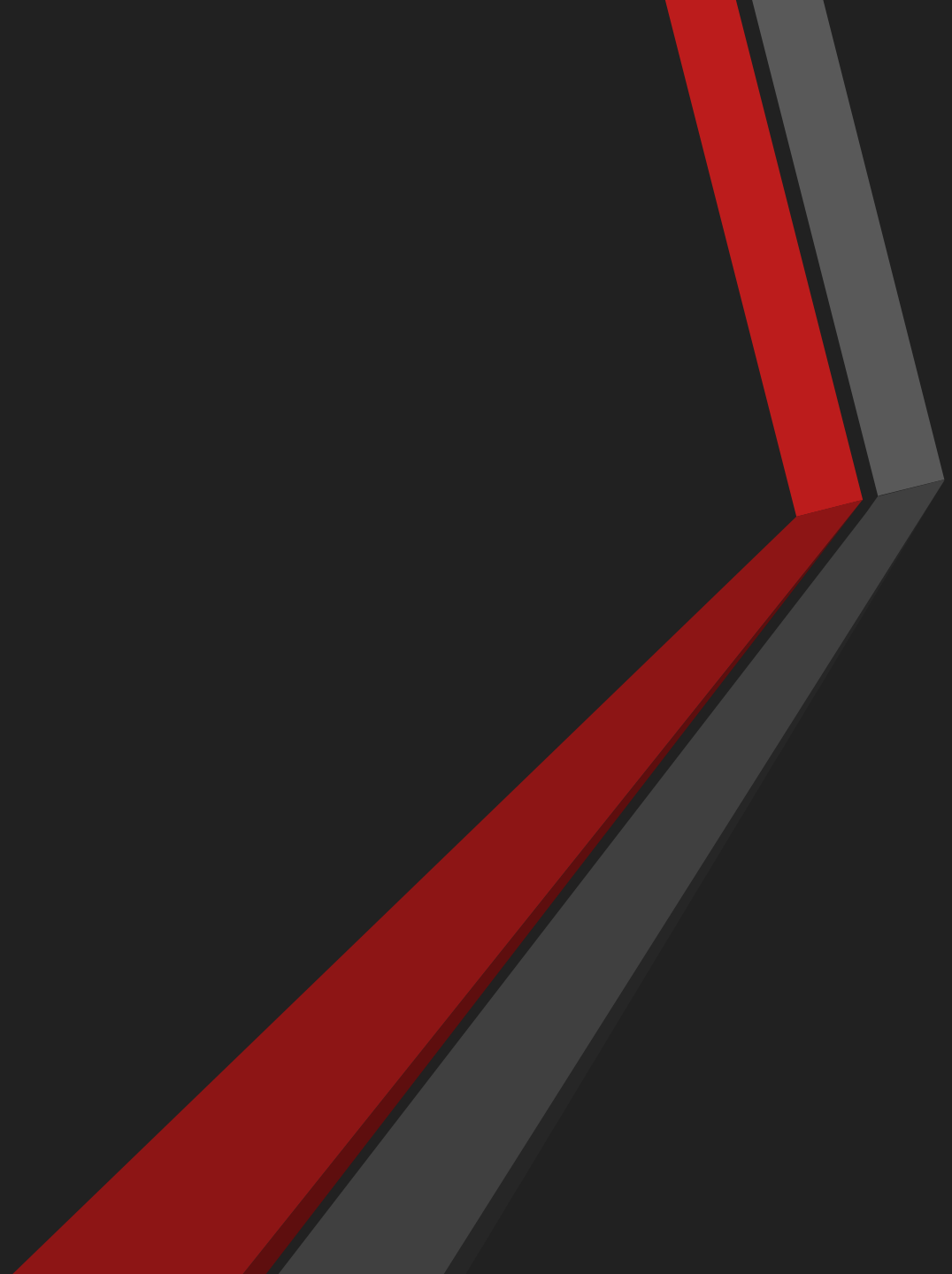


My Story

By Connor Nightingale





I'm Connor, I'm 22

I have autism and I was diagnosed with autism when I was 5

I didn't feel fully supported or understood at School. I didn't feel that people listened and my needs and there were often not met. This was my experience of services.

I have an entitled to support and education – health and care plan

I went to Kirklees College, where my needs were met, but after 3 years on Travel and Tourism and a further 2 years on Pre Supported internship I didn't know what I wanted with my self.

Thankfully, this wasn't to be and I was able to seek an employment opportunity at Kirklees Council through Project Search.

I am a member of the people with lived experience teaching partnership workstream, where I am helping to develop a new vision for this workstream.

We will develop a video along with other Project Search interns.



Special Interests



Trains: It has always been a lifelong interest that has stuck with me

Politics: My interest in politics began through the frustration of the Control of the train doors strikes back in 2016, but after a few months it began to wane. However, with politics getting heated after the Brexit referendum it brought my attention back to politics and around 2018 was when I really got into it.

What could
have
happened
to make
things
better at
school?

Support not
Provided

Support was not in place or if it was it was not to the required hours.

Lack of
Understanding

There lack of understanding of me as an individual and how my needs should be met.

Friendship

More could have been done to help me make friends at school and branch out my social network, while I was at High school. I only made one good friend while I was there but it turned pear-shaped within a year.



Why Employment at Kirklees through Project Search was right for me

It can offer a wide range of job types for the individual.

There are so many like-minded people work at Kirklees Council.

There is a good understanding of the individual needs and their personality, in this way he or she's needs can be met.

There is a good understanding that EVERYONE is different as an individual and this is referenced while the individual is on the programme.

There is familiarisation of the people who the individual will work with before the placement begins.

Meaningful work can be offered to the individual with the possibility of full employment after.



**Thank You
for
Listening to
me**