



Virtual Reality and Supported Employment

Robert Elston

Chief Executive Status Employment



Employment Health & Wellbeing for a better future



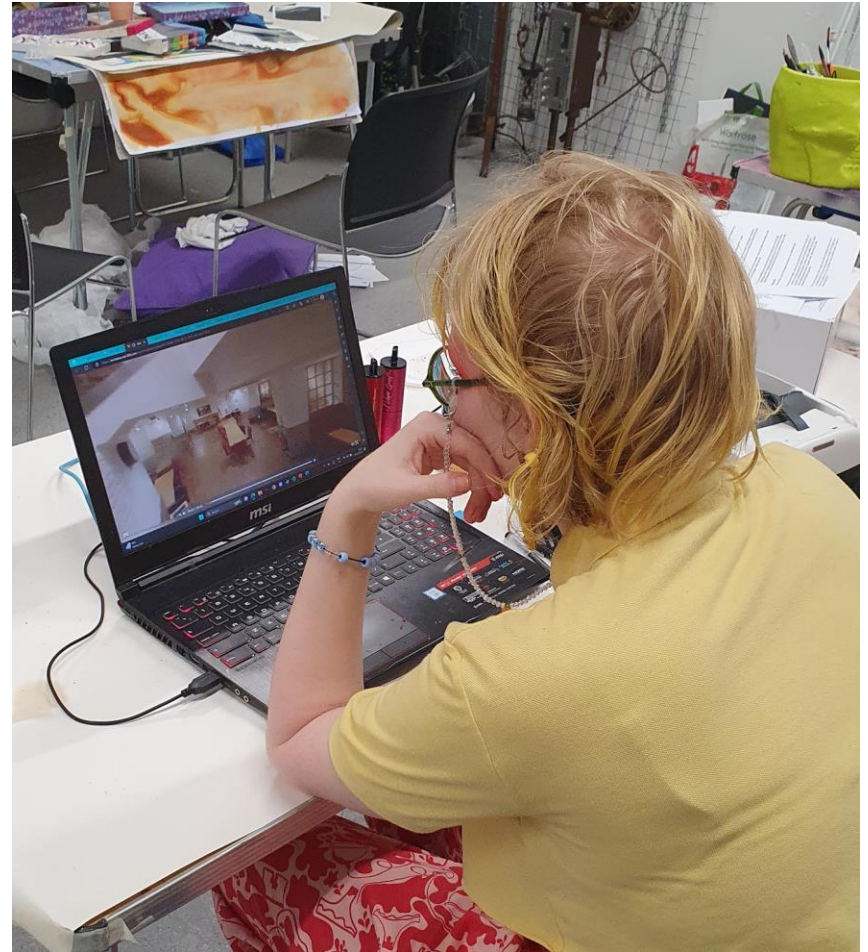
About Our Project



We collaborated with Mutually Inclusive Partnerships on this project.

This helped us with creating different scenarios and helped us test with more people.

We found that people with learning disabilities really took to learning the information through VR as it encouraged them to immerse themselves and learn from directly watching people work and seeing it from different angles.





On the other hand, people with sensory problems found the videos more helpful in helping them understand the different sounds and sights they can expect to experience in the workplace so they can mentally prepare for those events. We especially found this in the Angelina's Café scenario as the clients said they found themselves immersed in the café and knew what to experience before they went into the café.

The hard skills were very well received with clients commenting on how they felt confident to go into the workplace and work on them as they were more clearly shown how to do the skills in VR over learning them on site.

The soft skills candidates found them more useful if they directly linked to the client and found the ones about mental health useful.



One of the clients noted that they would be more willing and calmer in a new workplace after experiencing the videos.

Another client asked if there was more, they could test and try and was excited about using the VR and was confident about what they learnt in the videos.



Quotes From Students Who Used VR from Mutually Inclusive

“Using an interactive computer programme, giving students realistic expectations about employment. Getting students excited about their future” Shanta, Warmley Park School 22/11/2024

“It helped students to make positive choices and recognise the nuances of situations” Anna, Warmley Park School 22/11/2024

“Very visual, auditive and interactive. The resources were inclusive and suitable - the interactive activity was great!” Saitvi, Warmley Park School 22/11/2024

“I thought that was brilliant” Student A (who does not usually participate), , Warmley Park School 22/11/2024

Also Student M, who has never spoken in any of the previous sessions read out a number of the onscreen questions.



How We are Currently Using VR

- We currently use VR in our Supported Internship project; this project is about helping teenagers transfer from school to working.
- We use VR videos to help show what different workplaces are like, so they know what to expect going into them.
- We have also used this to show how to resolve different situations such as disclosing mental health and how to be ask for help.
- The interns love using it and are always excited to try it on and have asked for more scenarios for them to use.



How We plan to use it going forward

We have plans to make more videos to help our interns learn about more aspects of their work they may not come across on the day to day.

We have also started to look at the video creation side as well as a lot of our candidates especially from our Self Employment Academy are interested in developing the videos themselves.

We have started to bring them into the planning and filming of the videos helping them develop and learn the skills that go into them.

This will help us ensure that the videos are also to the best quality to help everyone and ensures the videos are not too sensory overwhelming as found in our testing





Our Work on it has helped us win the 2024 BASE (British Association of Supported Employment) Innovation award.

