

Your Life, Your Choice

Life Stories





Kirsty's story – “I had been the sole carer for my daughter for 18 years. My health had deteriorated and I was struggling to care for her. She developed epilepsy which was unpredictable and uncontrolled. I was unable to work full time and had no respite, or family support. Our social worker identified a supported living house and I knew that this house could be suitable for my daughter. The home felt

calm and friendly, the place was clean. The residents were happy and welcoming. I saw the room and it was furnished and had an en-suite. Perfect for my daughter! She liked it too. We started the transition by my daughter visiting then staying for tea and she then quickly asked to sleep over and soon she wanted to stay longer. I found the staff at the home were all helpful and took a real interest in my daughter – within 2 months she was living almost full time in the home. I struggled to let go but over time I learned that she was happy and wanted to be at the home. She enjoyed being there and had her independence. The staff worked with me to slowly take over the responsibility for her care. We work together now. Communication is key. They set up a weekly planner so I can see what she will be doing and we have regular reviews with the care home managers and our social worker to check everything was working well. I now see my daughter as much as I want to and I am welcome in her home. Our relationship is still strong and much healthier. I am so grateful for the opportunity arising when it did. I was at breaking point. I love my daughter but I needed my life to be about more than caring for her. I now work full time and enjoy quality time with my daughter.



Haleema's view as a social worker – “A young man I was working with had been to various support places to gain help looking for employment. His life dream was to gain a couple of hours a week employed as a cleaner. He turned up early to voluntary work, worked hard, but just wanted that little bit more and why not, he deserved to work. We had a number of interviews, a work trial but the young person was becoming low and I was becoming worried about him, he felt rejected. I then fell upon a vacancy for

a cleaner and discussed the young person. A trial was undertaken and he was offered work. Parents were so pleased for him as they were worried about his well-being due to the knock backs he had had. This was the best news which the young person and the family had hoped for. The young person is still there over a year later”.



Jane is a young woman who had been in residential care as a child and before turning 18 was referred to the Preparing for Adulthood team. Jane has complex health and social care needs and at times her behaviour can be classed as challenging. On first meeting her at 17, Jane shared her vision for her 'future life'. It was to live in her own home, with a green room and a cat and to continue at her roller skating activity. A few years on, and she is now 23 years old - and whilst initially residential care was the only option available to safely manage her needs, the social worker did not forget Jane's initial wish and aspiration and continued to work with her and her support team towards achieving the life she wanted. She is now living in her own bungalow, in Derby with 24 hour staff support. She is attending the same roller skating activity and has since changed her mind about the colour of her room, but that was her choice! Whilst she doesn't yet have a cat, as with her original aspiration of her own home, which she achieved, this remains a goal we are all working towards as she settles into her new home and support.



Emma has cerebral palsy. One of the Council's Occupational Therapists has been supporting her and her family to move from her current accommodation as she was having problems with neighbours and anti-social behaviour. She moved to a flat in "Extra Care" housing which is independent accommodation with onsite care staff. The Occupational Therapist supports Emma to liaise with her new landlord to design the layout of the flat including the provision of special equipment to help her move around independently, without the need for extra care staff. This has enabled Emma to continue maintaining her independence and living the life she wants. She is now able to live in this fully adapted flat for as long she wants and both her and her parents are pleased that she has been enabled to lead the life in the way she wants to.

We can give you this information in any other way, style or language that will help you access it. Please contact us on: 01332 642797
Minicom: 01332 640666

Polish

Aby ułatwić Państwu dostęp do tych informacji, możemy je Państwu przekazać w innym formacie, stylu lub języku.

Prosimy o kontakt: 01332 642797 Tel. tekstowy: 01332 640666

Punjabi

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Slovakian

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Urdu

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Derby City Council