

My name is Jonny and I'm 32yrs old. After I left school I went to Leicester College doing a GNVQ (General National Vocational Qualification) in Computing (Foundation/Intermediate) for 2 years. After that I went on to do a BTEC (Business and Technology Education Council) in Computing. The college provided me with a support worker to help me. I really enjoyed my time at college making new friends and new experiences.

If I was told I would have to go to a day centre after I left school I would rather stay at home because day centres are not the right environment for me. It would have also felt like all my years of learning at school had been wasted.

After achieving my GNVQ'S and a BTEC in Computing, I enrolled at De Montfort University first doing an HND (Higher National Diploma) in Computing for 2 years. This is where I got my first taste of website design, I learnt the skills needed, I really enjoyed it and I was good at it as well. I thought and still think I want to do this for a living. Like college I liked the new experiences of meeting new people, socialising and developing as a person as well.

For nearly 7 years now I've been living independently in an accessible apartment. I live alone with support of a 24hr support worker. Using my Direct Payments enables me to employ a support worker directly or outsource care agencies services to provide me with care which is tailored to my needs. This means I do not have to rely on my mum who is in her seventies and needs her space and independence too.

Having a 24hr support worker enables me to enjoy life and to do all of the things what I want to do, such as going out of coffee with my friends, going to the cinema, going on a night out into town and generally socialising.

Having Direct Payments gives me flexibility to manage my care because I am in control of it.

In the future I want to look for a job in website design or setup my own business and be self-employed.