

Jimmy's Story



I am an energetic young man with autism and learning disability. It is important that I receive the right type of support to enable me to do one-to-one basic learning exercises as well as undertaking a mixture of activities that develop important life skills and give me the daily exercise I need. Prior to getting my personal budget, I attended generic college courses but these were not specific to my individual needs.

I have had a personal budget since 2009. My family organise my support plan and have been able to tailor this to meet my individual needs. The flexibility of a personal budget has helped with this, and it has been easy to modify my plan to reflect my changing interests. My father says: 'Jimmy's personal budget has had a significant impact on his life. It has allowed him to participate in regular activities such as rowing, trampolining, going to the gym, visiting social clubs for disabled people and walking the dogs. He has developed an interest in photography, and attends cooking and woodwork classes with his helpers. It has also enabled him to employ four different support workers, as he needs the variety that they give him.'

Since having a personal budget I have moved into independent living accommodation and have been able to transfer the skills I have learnt in my classes into my own home. My support plan contains elements of learning (in particular basic reading, writing and counting) as well as more domestic tasks such as making the bed, cooking and cleaning. It also includes one-to-one tuition, which, unlike my old generic college courses, is helping me to excel in my life skills. My father says: 'We have found it easier to plan for Jimmy's future because we are aware of the budget available to support him upfront. His personal budget has enabled Jimmy to flourish. He is much happier in his living circumstances and with his daily routine. He is much calmer, and this has had a knock-on effect on the whole family.'