

Support Plan for A

My name is A, I am 23 years old and I live at home with Mum, Dad and Q our dog. I go to P College doing Entry Performing Arts. I started this in September and I am thoroughly enjoying it. C comes to college with me and helps me with eating, going to the toilet and doing the dance movements and positions. At college I have many friends who make me feel like one of the gang, they keep me updated with all the music I like and we communicate through my different communication boards and electronic talker. Although I have cerebral palsy, I try to be as active as I can and love learning, especially I am interested in current affairs.

Family life is very important to me, Dad is a drummer so we have a great time together, we share the same taste in music and I love seeing Dad gig. Mum loves it too but I think sometimes the music gets a bit too loud and full-on for her! In the winter I help Dad build a fire in the stove in the lounge and we watch a movie on sky. Christmas time is wonderful. I normally get loads of music DVDs. I have a very large collection in my room, with a new TV and DVD/video player Mum and Dad got me for Christmas. We have a touring caravan and this summer we went to southern Spain, it was a great holiday. We went out to eat and Mum and I did shopping. I enjoy shopping with Mum, Dad hates it! I have my own bunk of course and I love being tucked up in bed.

I am very happy with my life at the moment, my communication is being updated and looked at with the Speech Therapist and I am working towards independence in this area. As I am being more active in my new course at college, Mum and Dad are sorting new pieces of equipment to help me, a standing frame, better table and walker, I am very excited about this.

I have lots of friends at college, C my carer is also my friend. He waits at reception ready with my wheelchair to take me to my first lesson. He helps me with all my personal care, and the most important bit – break and dinner times. We are a good team, if I

forget to ask to go to the loo, C makes sure he takes me and if he forgets my Mars Bar, I'll give him a dig! I think he knows by now how much I enjoy my food; he always manages to get a big helping for me! In our lessons at college we have LSAs to help us with our work. C also is there to help me with my work. D works with me for half an hour on Monday morning on the computer for extra tuition. E, F and G work with us for the academic subjects, and G, again, and H for music, dance and drama. C works with the LSAs and of course the tutors to help me do my work.

Apart from my communication board and talker I have a wipe board, which C uses to give me appropriate choices, which I point to, within the lesson, so I can take part fully with the other students.

In dance C is there to help me with the different positions, again with the help of the tutor, LSA and students to learn the plays we are doing.

All of us work together, whether academic or dance, very well, our motto in Entry Performance Arts is "everybody looks out for each other" and it works!

M, another student in the group, and I were elected to represent our group at the Student Union's meeting. C helped us with the different issues the group raised, we were excited but also a bit nervous. I think C was as well, but he didn't say!

The thing I would like to change is for C and I to meet outside of college and perhaps go to the cinema or the pub with mates from college.

Mum and Dad support me at home and Nan when I go round for dinner on Sunday. C supports me at college along with J my course tutor and the LSAs. C and J would help me to sort out how I could socialise more with friends at College and Mum and Dad would help me to arrange transport, perhaps through Dial-a-Ride or something suitable as I would like to have the independence to go out and come home, rather than having to depend on Mum and Dad all the time.

I would decide who I wanted to ask to go out and when, and C would help me to do this. Mum has already spoken to C and J about this, and also at college we have challenges we have to do and J is making this mine, I'm very excited about it.

My Individual Budget is:

£16,642

£ 450 is for a contingency plan, which would involve C to help me if Mum, Dad or Nan were unwell and if not C, a carer from XYZ, the agency C is with.

£11,617.20 is C's fees for helping me in college

£ 4,574.80 is left, which leaves me £87.98 a week which I could spend on going out, taxi fares, drinks and cinema tickets.