

Direct Payments Support Service Case Study – Peter Burton

Peter was born in Luton and has lived here all his life. He lived with his parents and worked at Vauxhall Motors for ten years. When his parents passed away, Peter was unable to live independently. He met with his social worker Massarat (Maz) and moved into a supported living home managed by Luton Borough Council.

Peter started going to a day centre where he was able to take part in various activities such as art, crafts and cookery all of which he enjoyed. After some years he decided he would like a change and have more control over what he did with his time.

Maz discussed the possibility of Peter receiving direct payments. This would enable him to choose social activities in the community and pay a personal assistant to support him.



Peter (57) with his Assistant, Stefan

Peter was referred to the Direct Payments Support Service at the Disability Resource Centre (DRC). He was visited by Dan Robinson, a Direct Payment Officer. Dan referred Peter to Sonia Richards, Co-ordinator of the Personal Assistant Register at the DRC. Sonia supported Peter to recruit a personal assistant which involved advertising, considering application forms and interviewing. Peter chose to employ Stefan.

Sonia also supported Peter to draw up a contract of employment, and Stefan started working for him in August 2009. 'Since receiving direct payments I have been more in control of my life. I enjoy travelling and going on holidays. Stefan supports me to do this.'

The Payroll Service at the DRC supports Peter to calculate tax and national insurance and sends a wage slip to Stefan. Peter pays Stefan from the bank account he opened especially to receive the direct payments.

Stefan supports Peter to complete forms to send to the Direct Payment Finance Team at Luton Borough Council to explain how the direct payments are spent. 'Although I need support to live my life I am in control of the activities I do and really enjoy employing Stefan to be my personal assistant'.

'I enjoy leading a full life. I enjoy listening to my CDs, learning about computers, growing vegetables and cooking meals. If Stefan or I need to talk about direct payments we just call Sonia or Dan at the DRC and they are able to help us. I have been receiving direct payments for over three years now. It has really worked for me'.