

Direct Payments Support Service, Case Study – Stanislaw



Stanislaw and Magdalena

Stanislaw arrived in England from Poland in 2007, and worked as a painter and decorator. In October 2012 he fell downstairs and broke his spine. Stanislaw spent four months in the National Spinal Injuries Centre (NSIC) in Stoke Mandeville Hospital, Aylesbury, participating in a full and active rehabilitation therapy program, but has needed to use a wheelchair ever since his accident.

In March 2013 Stanislaw was supported by his social worker, Maria Deery, (Discharge, Assessment & Rehabilitation Team (DART) at St Mary's Wing, Luton & Dunstable Hospital), to find temporary accommodation suitable for a wheelchair user. Stanislaw was also referred to the Disability Resource Centre (DRC) for support with Direct Payments.

Although he has experienced a dramatic change to his lifestyle, Stanislaw is a very independent person. He is very fit and able to get himself around. Mike Byrom and Daniel Robinson from the Direct Payments Support Service at the DRC supported Stanislaw to recruit a Polish PA called Magdalena who started work for him in August 2013. Magdalena's role is to support Stanislaw to access the community, and particularly the gym, which Stanislaw enjoys a lot. Because Stanislaw needs support with understanding written documents and some help with spoken English, Magdalena is able to support in this area as well.

Receiving Direct Payments has meant that Stanislaw is able to be more independent, to keep fit and to enjoy an improved social life.



Stanislaw at the gym

Stanislaw says: I am very happy with going to the gym at Lewsey Sport Centre, which is near my home and easy to get there by wheelchair. Doing exercises and being able to chat with other people when I am out is good fun and really helps with my general feeling of wellbeing. Magdalena is a very good PA as she is reliable. Also, thanks to her support and motivation recently, I am planning to start English classes soon. Step by step my life is getting back to normal and I enjoy this fact.

Magdalena says: Working for Stanislaw is very rewarding. Helping him to achieve greater independence is very satisfying for me. Stanislaw is a very positive, independent person. We get on well and I think that working together has made a difference for both of us.