

# Learning Disability Support

## Blakes Story

**Blake is 29 years old and lives in a shared house run by New Chapters, with people of a similar age to him. New Chapters is a family run service that offers adults and children the opportunity to live independently but in a supported environment. There are always staff onsite to support him and his housemates when they need it. This is called 'Supported Living accommodation'.**

Blake has a learning disability and was supported by Children and Families social care services up until the age of 18. Things were tough for Blake at times. As a child, he was bullied. He went to five different schools and concerns for his safety meant he had to move to another area.

Blake left school at 16 and went to residential college for three years. Blake really liked his Social Worker who worked with him from Disabled Children's Team. They had a great relationship. He also enjoyed activities with Action for Children (a charity supporting young people) such as day trips and overnight stays.

When he was 13, he was introduced to a Transition Social Worker who started working with Blake to ensure his support needs would continue to be met once he turned 18. At first, Blake wasn't happy about the support moving over and his Social Worker having to change. The Transition Social Worker worked with Blake and his new worker in Adult Social Care until he was 21 to make the change as easy as possible.



## Moving to Adult Social Services

At first, Blake was unhappy when he learned he had to have a new worker from Adult Social Care and say goodbye to his Social Worker from the Disabled Children's Team. Blake doesn't like change and found this hard. Blake was supported by the Transitions Team who helped him through this and made the process easier. When he met his Adult Social Care Worker, Adam, Blake immediately liked him, and they have worked together ever since to make positive changes and improve Blake's life.

Blake said he would rate Adam '1000 out of 10', and is so happy with the support he has received.

Blake had originally planned to live with friends. Unfortunately, this fell through. With Adam's support he moved to supported living accommodation in Clevedon. While this was a great place, the others that lived there were not of a similar age, so Blake found it difficult to settle and feel at home. Adam and Blake worked together to find an alternative. Blake moved into his current house with New Chapters in September 2024. His home is shared with other people that are a similar age to Blake. There are staff available 24/7 to support the people who live there and help them to achieve their goals.

Blake was recovering from an operation but told us that he was normally out and about 6 days a week. He said that he was 'very happy' living there.

His busy schedule includes working as an Oliver McGowan trainer which he finds very rewarding. He is part of a group that trains doctors, nurses and social care staff to understand and support autistic people and people with learning disabilities. Blake told us that he has experienced the benefits of the training first hand when going to hospital. He felt the nurses and doctors understood his needs better.

Blake enjoys being involved with voluntary projects and has been working on a community farm helping with jobs like gardening. He also attends slimming world and drama club. He has performed in shows previously and is working towards the next show.

Blake is working towards becoming more independent with his New Chapters support workers and his adult social care worker. He can make his own choices and do the things that matter to him, such as planning meals and shopping. He is in the process of taking control of his finances, which were previously managed by his family. This is a positive step towards living as independently as possible and having more choice and control over his life. He is learning new bus routes and building his confidence to travel safely on his own.

Blake has built great relationships with his housemates, and they look out for one another.

He has also worked to gain a better understanding of his own needs. He takes himself out of difficult situations to stop himself feeling overwhelmed and then seeks support.

With the support of his adult social care worker and New Chapters support workers, Blake is becoming more independent and feels happy and secure in his home.

He said: ***'It was really difficult when I went to Adult Social Services from Children's Social Care as I really liked my social worker. But then I met Adam and I'm really happy with him. He is the best one ever. If I'm worried, he explains things to me.'***

