

Overcoming barriers to work



Hannah's Story

Following a road traffic accident when she was 10, Hannah became confined to a wheelchair and was left with minimal use of one hand and limited speech.

New to the area, Hannah was referred to BCHA's Ignite programme to improve her confidence in communication with others and increase her social circle. Hannah attended coaching sessions, which improved her self esteem and self-reliance which in turn helped her to set and achieve more and more goals.

Hannah learned how to paint using her mouth and now creates some wonderful artwork. Even through it was a huge challenge, with support from tutors and mentors, she also completed a Level 2 mentoring qualification in the same time frame as her peers.

The support received from BCHA has enabled Hannah to find the confidence to move from supported housing to living independently in her own home for the first time.

Hannah states "I aim to become a mentor in the future, helping and supporting others by talking to them and sharing some of the challenges I have faced and how I have overcome them."

Her mentor said, "Hannah showed tremendous determination and her learning journey has built her confidence, self esteem and empowered her to make the significant step to independent living. She is an absolute inspiration to other learners and staff, demonstrating tenacity and consistent motivation towards her own personal growth."

Hannah's success was publically recognised when she won a regional Adult Learners Award for overcoming barriers to learning.