



### My Story

My name is Michelle and my life has not always been easy.

I spent a lot of time in hospital and homes. I wasted my days in centres. I wanted to be free to choose my own life.

Direct Payments made this possible.

I started looking at them because I really hated the place that I went to for respite. I spoke to my Care Manager and I got a Direct Payment for respite. This has made it possible for me to take my respite where and when I want to. I can put extra money towards it if I want to and go to a more expensive place. It has made it possible to go camping. This is my favourite respite.



Then I knew what freedom of choice meant. I fought for Direct Payments for all my support. Now I have a personal assistant. I can travel to all my meetings for work.

My passion is direct payments. Everyone should have control of their lives and be able to make their own choices and decisions.