

Tanya - My Story



My name is Tanya, I have attended The Skillnet group Thanet since 2004 .When I first started I was very shy. After a while though I started to feel more confident so I was asked if I wanted to study for a qualification in Life Skills, I said I did and after 2 years I passed in 2006.

I then had a meeting with my Care manager, Mum and Dad and Michelle from Skillnet, I said I wanted to learn how to catch the bus on my own, to be more independent to get to Shaw Trust to learn computer skills, without Mum taking me. To have this support I needed to set up a Direct Payment. This meant opening my own bank account and writing cheques. After 8 months I learnt how to do this journey and caught lots of different buses including going to Canterbury on my own, I felt very pleased with myself.



Then I started supporting with Michelle to attend the Transitional planning meetings and to become more involved with the Information Sharing forum, this was all paid work.

Now I am part of the Direct Payments Team. I show people what Direct Payments can be used for. I let people know how they changed my life.

I feel proud of what I have done. I am proud of how far I have come and that I earn a wage. It all started with choices and control.