# Ashleigh Milroy’s speech

When I left school, it was my dream to go onto college and university. The transition was really hard at first though, because I was being told by social work I could only get funding for personal care. But I needed more than personal care to carry on with my learning.

Thankfully I ended up working with an amazing team. They helped me to develop a personalised plan to give me the full support I needed to go to classes and make the most of my time at college and uni. I think the difference of going from a negative transition to a positive one, was all related to the people who worked with me and the knowledge and expertise they had to make it such a positive experience for me.

This support was life changing for me, as I went on to achieve a degree in psychology and sociology.

I have always loved learning, so I take every chance I can to do it. That has meant getting involved in lots of community based adult learning courses. I have a particular interest in campaigning for disabled people’s rights and community activism, so I have done some courses with Inclusion Scotland and Partners in Policy Making.

Although I was nervous to start with, I had a really positive experience, as the courses were very accessible and inclusive. The Partners in Policy Making course was residential, so they provided accessible accommodation and brought us our meals. You could also email them to check on your course work which was really helpful. And the rest of the learners on the course gave great support as well, so that was really good.

I am passionate about helping other people, so I jumped at the chance to get involved in Lead Scotland’s Right to Learn project to create this new guide. You can read more about my story in the guide and my tips and advice on accessing the right support to learn. I’d also love to highlight a section on Page 13 I worked on, about how to use CBAL to influence change. It goes into more detail about some of the fantastic organisations delivering CBAL to disabled people to help them live their best life and fight for a fairer society.

Thank you.