

“Skills for Care funding really has given me the ability to lead an independent life”

Sharon Taylor-Brown employs a team of PAs and she applied for funding to pay for her PAs to attend training as part of the Care Certificate.

As a result of the training, Sharon’s PAs feel more confident in their role and ultimately provide better care and support.

Here, she tells us how the funding has made a difference to her.

“I’m severely disabled - paralysed from the chest down with only the use of one arm and my voice.

Initially I employed two staff and used a care agency for my personal care needs using a personal budget, however the agency couldn’t manage my nursing care needs.

I applied for a personal health budget to pay for 24/7 care, and employ nine staff including one registered nurse, one nursing team leader and seven nursing support PAs.

Skills for Care funding paid for training for six PAs to do the Care Certificate. The funding enabled the training to be delivered in my own home so it was personalised to my needs.

We followed all the generic training but added personalised training like:

- changing my Supra Pubic Catheter bags, flipflops and statlocks
- how to do CPR if I’m in my wheelchair
- how to cope with my autistic tendencies of needing a routine.

Once they had a good understanding of my care and support needs from the Care Certificate training, the nurse then trained them in my nursing care tasks such as CPAP delivery and insulin administration.

The training has literally transformed my life. As a result of it we could train my PAs to a higher level enabling them to perform my nursing tasks wherever I am - whether out socialising or at a friend’s house because my staff can now go everywhere with me.

Since the training I have found the staff are more confident and knowledgeable about me and my medical conditions. They don’t have to keep asking me questions as they learnt all about ME during the training. It was tailored to meet my needs - physical, mental and emotional - meaning they were better able to cope when I had a stroke a few weeks after the training was completed.

Skills for Care funding really has given me the ability to lead an independent life despite crippling disabilities.”

Apply for funding

If you get a personal health budget and employ PAs, apply for funding for training. It can be used for care related training to help you as an employer, or to develop the skills of your PAs. Find out more www.skillsforcare.org.uk/PHBholders.