

“The training allows me to join in with my local community to a greater extent”

Kate Fenwick employs a team of PAs and she applied for funding to pay for one of her PAs to attend a QCF Level 2 DBG Signature Communicator–Guide course.

As a result of the training, Kate feels more confident knowing that her PA can guide her and communicate with her in the correct way.

Kate is deafblind and employs a team of PAs using a direct payment, to enable her to live independently.

Skills for Care funding paid for Lois, one of Kate’s PAs, to do a five day course with Deafblind Enablement. The course is specifically designed to meet the needs of support workers and professionals working with deafblind people.

The course included:

- definitions and the effects being deafblind can have
- communication methods: including deafblind manual, 'Block' alphabet, lip-reading, clear speech, facial expressions, gestures, BSL finger-spelling and good practice techniques
- safe guiding (internal and external activities), environmental information and impact on movement, orientation and mobility
- specific equipment available
- legislation and services.

Kate says:

“The training has made Lois more confident when she’s supporting me, and I feel more confident to join in with my local community. I also hope it will mean that I have less falls and misunderstandings in everyday life.”

Apply for funding

If you employ your own PAs using a direct payment, personal health budget or self-funded, apply for money 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/IEfunding.