

“Funding for training PAs makes a real difference”

Rosie Till supported her husband, Steve, to apply for funding so that two of his team of six personal assistants (PAs) to do adult social care qualifications.

Steve is severely disabled and needs one-to-one care around the clock, support from two PAs at various times throughout the day.

When Steve started employing PAs, his wife, Rosie, who was responsible for managing his complex social care and health care needs, took on the additional tasks of recruiting, managing and training his team of PAs. This didn't leave much time for anything else.

The funding has helped to develop Natalie and Lisa's skills so that they could support Rosie with the management of Steve's team of PAs. Rosie said:

“The training will help us structure our team of six PAs by providing Natalie with the necessary skills to lead the team. I hope this will mean I can spend more quality time with Steve.”

To develop her skills and knowledge to become the team leader, Steve's PA Natalie is doing the Level 5 Diploma in Leadership for Health and Social Care.

Lisa is doing the Level 2 Diploma in Health and Social Care to support the team as a senior PA.

Since starting their qualifications Natalie and Lisa have both excelled in their new roles. Their confidence has increased and Rosie is now able to spend more time with her husband.

They are also more motivated at work and have increased job satisfaction, which Rosie hopes will reduce the likelihood of staff turnover. She told us:

“Both Natalie and Lisa are keen to learn and we wanted to help them progress and develop their careers. The diploma has helped Natalie grow in confidence and meet the responsibilities of her new position, and given Lisa the training to support her – as a senior PA, Lisa will be a role model for other members of the team.”

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.