

Lifetime Training

PossAbilities is a social enterprise which provides support for vulnerable adults with learning disabilities, dementia and young people leaving care. Partnered with Lifetime, they have become the first employer to utilise the Health and Social Care Foundation Apprenticeship to recruit a workforce fit for the future.

23-year-old Nick Marshall, based in Manchester was adopted when he was two before then going back into care between the ages of 16-18. He experienced homelessness during his GCSEs, after a relationship broke down. Nick discovered the foundation apprenticeship after exploring opportunities and funding he could access as a care leaver under the age of 25.

Nick said: I was on and off the streets and couch surfing and then moved into a homelessness shelter when I was 16. I then went back into care at 16 and got my own flat when I was 18. I went through a lot of therapy and worked with an Art Therapist who helped me progress in a lot of different areas. I really wanted to become like the people that have helped me.

19-year-old Danielle Clegg said: When you leave care, you're thrown into the real world and you just want a job, rather than going back into education.

As a care leaver, being able to take part in the apprenticeship is amazing. A lot of people who have been in care themselves suffer with anxiety and depression, so it's beneficial being able to get one to one support from your manager, while earning money, which you wouldn't get in college."