**We had a Q&A with Georgina, an Individual Employer who has used her Direct Payment funding to hire a team of PAs to support her.**

**Q1. What has changed for you since getting a PA?**

I have had the opportunity to go on an internship and build my skills up even though my physical disabilities have gotten a lot worse. I have gained a lot more independence in my own life which I have previously thought I’d lost plus I’ve gained a lot more confidence in learning how to manage myself as well as working with others. My PAs have also allowed me to help train an assistant dog!

**Q2. What support do you get from your PA?**

I get a range of support! Most of it centres around personal care but a lot involves social activities and work-related outings such as volunteer roles or my internship. One of the main things I get from PA support is my mental health, I’ve really struggled with it over the years since my disability has got worse and I felt trapped, so having a PA around to enable me to get outside has really helped.

**Q4. What does having a PA mean to you?**

Having a PA has been fantastic, I couldn’t imagine my life from being able to achieve what I can without them. I’m so thankful for my team.

**Q5. Did you always know you could have a PA?**

No, I didn’t know! It wasn’t until 2015 where I became aware of the PA system and the Noticeboard. A lot of applicants and jobseekers also find it difficult to find jobs like this. This can be frustrating as I know there are plenty of individuals out there that would be great as PAs.

**Q7. Would you recommend having a PA to other people?**

Absolutely if I felt they could manage working with an individual one-to-one. Obviously there’s a lot more HR involved when employing a PA, and there has to be some boundaries in place which can be quite difficult considering it is personal care. Some individuals might be better off with just an agency or care facility, but for me I prefer having PAs and what they can provide for me, working together, and the management of admin.