



MacIntyre

Providing support...your way

MacIntyre No Limits

Supporting independent travel, living and further education

At **MacIntyre**, we believe that giving a young person the best start in life is essential. Although we never stop learning, delivering the right education, in the right way, at the right time, can make such a difference to a person's life.

Enter **MacIntyre No Limits**, which provides a bespoke educational package in partnership with local colleges and schools. The service works with young people and their families to deliver a tailored, inclusive and educational solution, enabling young people with learning disabilities to access the services they need. By giving a greater number of young people the opportunity to live, learn and work locally, **MacIntyre's No Limits** programme provides a broad range of pathways for young people moving into their adult lives.

Sam, who has cerebral palsy, has been supported by **MacIntyre No Limits** since he started his course at **Milton Keynes College** in 2013; Sam was told that he would only be able to continue onto further education at college if he had the necessary support.

Now in his fourth and final year at **Milton Keynes College** completing his Supported Internship course, Sam not only undertakes a work placement at the college two days per week and takes on the role of Health and Safety Representative for other **No Limits** learners, but he also now lives and travels independently.

Reflecting on his progress and achievements in the last four years, Sam says, "I am so happy that I have been given the opportunity to continue learning at college. I have learned a lot and met some amazing people. My work placement at the college is



really great; I help other college learners with their work when they need it and also assist the college with admin tasks. I'll be sad to finish my course at the end of the year, but I hope to continue working at the college even when the course has finished – the aim is to get a job after all!"

Sam explains how he has also gained a lot of skills through his role as Health and Safety Representative for **No Limits**. "In my first year with **No Limits** the staff were looking for a Health and Safety Rep and I thought it sounded like something I'd enjoy doing. My responsibility is to look out for any potential risks and make sure they are mitigated, and I also act as a voice for other **No Limits** learners who can tell me if they think they have seen something that is a risk or is unsafe. I then work with **No Limits** staff to make sure the changes are made. It's an important role but I think I'm good at it – I'm always on the lookout for how things



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can be improved and it's definitely helped me to grow in confidence."

And Sam hasn't just made progress with his education and work experience, but also in his personal life, as he now lives and travels independently.

Sam continues, "I've had my own place for nearly a year now and I really love it. It's great coming home after being at college or being out and about and just being able to do what I want. My brother sometimes comes to visit me, which is nice too. Also, because I now live on my own, I decided to start managing my own finances. This involves taking trips to the bank, checking that I've been paid, paying in cheques and taking control of my savings.

"Being able to travel independently has also made a huge difference to my life. **MacIntyre** was great at sorting out a bus pass for me so I didn't have to pay a single fare each time I travelled on a bus – which is a lot. I'm now confident with travelling on my own and with the routes. One time I even had to redirect the bus driver when another bus broke down because I knew where to go and he didn't! As well as travelling to and from college and getting around to run errands, I also use the bus to travel to Luton around once a month to meet up with another **No Limits** learner. It's nice to have a chat and catch up with him, but what I love even more is that I'm now able to get there all by myself."

It's not just Sam that recognises his astounding progress. **Andy Jeffs, Programme Coordinator, No Limits**, has been with Sam for the past two years of his journey with **No Limits** and has witnessed a remarkable change.

"Quite simply, Sam has achieved more in four years than some people achieve in fifteen years – the scale and pace at which he has progressed is incredible. Being able to not only travel independently but to live independently too is a huge

accomplishment; there is no limit for Sam so we're looking forward to seeing what he sets his sights on next."

Sam concludes, "I think the thing that I love the most about **MacIntyre No Limits** is how much they have helped me over the years. I love being a part of the team and I know that they will always be there to help me out."



To find out more about **No Limits** or to get involved with making a difference to the lives of young people, please get in touch.

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