

Learning for Life



Luke's story

Luke's communication skills have developed to a point where he is now able to ask for help when he needs it.

Luke, from Flintshire in Wales, attended a mainstream school before coming to Derwen College. During his time at school, a speech therapist told Luke's mum Donna that Luke's speech would never improve. "It couldn't have been further from the truth!" Donna says.

The Learning for Life pathway (LfL) gave Luke the foundation he needed to succeed. Initially, Luke required one-to-one support all day but, after being provided with new communication strategies by our Speech and Language Therapy team, this need gradually decreased over time.

The progress Luke made in LfL meant he was able to move full-time on to a linked pathway, Hospitality and Food. After finding his feet, Luke flourished and, as a result, he excelled in his placements at our on-site Derwen Marketplace outlets.

Luke is now in supported living, and mum Donna is delighted with his progress. "He's got enough independence that he knows what Mum says doesn't necessarily go any more. He can make his own choices."

Luke now works four days a week in a local café. He's enjoying it so much, he even visits on his days off! Luke bakes cakes, cooks sausages, bacon, eggs and toast. He also makes customers their tea and coffee, and serves them at the till.

