



QEF

queen elizabeth's
foundation for
disabled people

Neuro Rehabilitation Services

QEF Neuro Rehabilitation Services provides residential and non-residential acquired brain injury services, through assessment, intensive neuro rehabilitation and education.

Case Study: Joel

Joel was 16 years old, busy studying for his GCSEs when his stroke occurred. He was admitted to hospital, where he underwent urgent surgery. Recovery was complicated by chest infections and pulmonary emboli; he was in Intensive Care for 15 days.



When he came out of his coma, Joel had severe dysphasia and dyspraxia, affecting his clarity of speech, his ability to express his ideas and to comprehend what people said. He had significant physical difficulties, with no movement of his right side, and had some cognitive difficulties.

Joel used a wheelchair to get around and required significant daily

living support: washing, dressing, cooking and shopping. His literacy skills were also severely affected, particularly devastating as he had greatly enjoyed creative writing.

After a period of rehabilitation at home, Joel was admitted to QEF's Brain Injury Centre. He could say single familiar words, but his intelligibility was reduced, and although he could walk, he had significantly reduced function of his right arm and leg. Remembering information was also difficult, as was planning and initiating actions.

Joel's confidence was severely reduced and he was still unable to read or write. Although Joel could recognise written letters, words and short sentences, he found it difficult to know the corresponding sounds and found it difficult to read and spell words.

During his rehabilitation at QEF, Joel received support from the multi-disciplinary team for his long term goals. He was very motivated and, with quiet determination, made steady progress towards his targets. Joel developed the ability to communicate using short sentences. By using scripts that were practiced and rehearsed prior to use, he gradually became more confident in a variety of situations.

Joel made good physical progress; he could participate in sporting activities and walk for long distances in the community. His cognitive abilities also improved; he showed ability to remember information and initiate tasks and made progress in learning to read and write again. With the opportunity to live in an independent living flat at the Brain Injury Centre and, with graded support from Occupational Therapy, he became independent in planning and preparing familiar meals and completing his own shopping and light domestic tasks.

As Joel's independence increased, he also developed the confidence and ability to travel independently, using public transport, and enjoy socialising in the community with friends.

Prior to his stroke Joel had loved playing the drums; he learnt to do this again, using a drumstick adapted for his affected upper limb. He showed a strong creative flair and developed new interests in art, photography and media technology.

Joel made remarkable progress during his rehabilitation. With support he explored plans for his future and successfully gained a place in Media Studies at Hereward College, which he commenced in September 2011.

For further information please contact:

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