

# Nicks Story

Meet Nicholas Bettis, who lives in a rural village on the outskirts of the County of Wrexham. Before lockdown Nick would attend groups and was involved in the SWS group (Standards of Wrexham Services). When lockdown occurred Nick didn't have access to IT equipment or have broadband where he lived. At the beginning of lockdown Nick became quite down and felt quite isolated. The family was going through a difficult time anyhow and Nick describes himself as being in a dark place. With support from Nicole at Wrexham Council, and Welsh Government money, Nick was provided with an IPad and a dongle in order to access the internet. He was introduced to zoom and was finally able to join some of the online groups that Wrexham council had organised. This lifted Nick immensely.



It was Nicole Mitchell Meredith (Person Centred Planning Coordinator) who introduced Nick to our team and said he would be a great asset to our coproduction group working on developing an e-learning package.

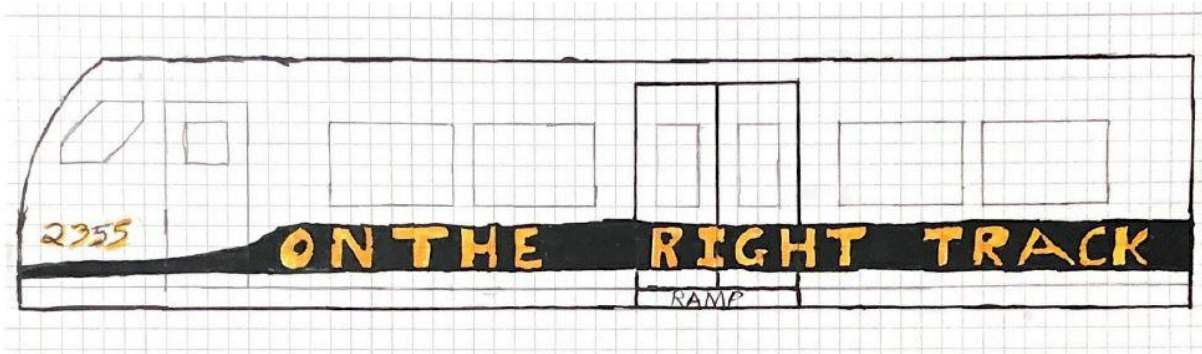
Our remit was to design an e-learning module around "good support". The training would be aimed at new support workers to introduce them

to the key themes around good support. As a group we decided to look at communication, enablement and positive risk taking, as good support in these areas really contribute to a person achieving their outcomes and a good life.

Nick has thrown himself into this e-learning, and we have definitely seen the creative juices flow. Conversation flowed about what life can be like when you are not allowed to do something and are "over serviced" and Nick brought up the film "Sliding Doors" as a concept. Nick also commented in one of our meetings about "being on the right track" and along with the sliding doors concept, the train theme was born!

It was at this point that Nick started to get really enthused about the project. Our meetings consisted of lots of "train" puns! Nick spent time inbetween our meetings

drawing his “enablement train”, which you can see below. He introduced us to this train in one of our meetings and it was at this point we decided to explore the possibility of bringing this train to life.



It was at this point we brought TAPE music and film on board to look at how we could bring this train to life. We agreed to fund some development sessions for Nick to work with an animator. Nick has had time via zoom working with Sam Martin, one of the animators from TAPE, where he has been learning new skills around animation. Nick has spent quite a lot of time inbetween meetings working on his animations. Nick has gone from minimal IT skills before lockdown to now making animations on his iPad.

Nicks mum described this whole project as “lifesaving”. She says it has given him something to take his mind of some difficult times at home, and given him a purpose. She says he really looks forward to our weekly meetings.

Nick has said himself the animation work has been very challenging and he gets frustrated at times, however this is all part of the process of learning. He also said he feels incredibly proud of himself when it goes to plan and the animation works.

It has been a great experience for nick to get through lockdown whilst also developing a new passion for animation and illustration, which he enjoys doing for fun in his spare time.

It is great for us, as we have an e-learning package that has Nicks stamp all over it and will be a piece of work that he can be truly proud of.

We will do a full digital story of Nicks journey once all the animations are completed, however we hope this gives a flavor of Nicks journey so far.