

Community Connecting

Meet Ayrton . . .



Ayrton was already working with Community Connecting when he decided that he would like to become more independent and learn to travel to his voluntary job on his own rather than rely on his parents.

Ayrton has always travelled in the community with a family member so this was a new experience for him. He was volunteering at a charity shop in another town which meant travel training would involve catching two public buses, one from the small village where he lives into the local town and another into the town where he volunteers.

Having agreed with his parents that he was road safe Ayrton was supported to look at the travel route, this included a trial run by his Community Co-ordinator to ensure the route was achievable and to identify any potential safe places. A safe place is for example a shop, pub, café or school who have agreed to support someone should they need assistance while in the community; this could be from losing money to just being anxious.

There are few buses that run through his village, so his voluntary hours would need to change to an hour earlier to allow him the chance to catch the right bus for work. A meeting was held with the manager and they were happy to accommodate and change his working hours.

A suitable bus route was identified and travel training began. Ayrton is a quiet person in general who found talking to people hard, having to signal for the bus to stop and ask for his bus ticket was something that took him out of his comfort zone but with support he did it. Over the next four weeks he was supported every Monday and Tuesday to travel from home to his place of work on two buses. There were times when he needed extra support with identifying the correct money and change and which bus to catch, but with support and over time he mastered the route.

Ayrton has been travelling to work and back on his own since a quality check was carried out to ensure he was travelling safely.

Supported by Clare Chester
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“I feel he is much more independent now, he’s just grown so much since training started and I was reassured because he was supported throughout the process”

Alison, Mum