



Adam's Story

An example of WIISS supporting a young person's transition to post-19 education and employment.

WIISS has worked with Adam and his family since 2015, supporting them through school placement changes and Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) processes. As Adam approached adulthood, his annual review represented a critical transition point where decisions regarding his post-19 education needed to be agreed and secured.

Adam had a clear ambition to pursue a career in restoration. Having attended taster courses at a college specialising in vocational trades, he developed a strong passion for the trade and was determined to achieve a Level 2 Diploma while securing an apprenticeship with a local company. However, the specialist course was only available at a college more than two hours away from Wolverhampton.

The family sought support from WIISS to ensure that Adam's aspirations were fully considered and that he was not directed towards local educational provision that could not offer the specialist training needed to achieve his career goals.

WIISS provided intensive support throughout the EHCP annual review and consultation process. This included:

- Initial advice and preparation meetings before the annual review.
- Attendance at the EHCP Annual Review meeting alongside Adam, his parent, the school SENCO, the Local Authority SEND Officer and Connexions Advisor.
- Ongoing email and telephone support to explain processes, answer questions and provide guidance throughout consultations and EHCP amendments.
- Liaison with Local Authority professionals to obtain updates, clarify timescales and monitor progress towards issuing the final EHCP.
- Information and advice that enabled Adam and his parents to confidently engage with professionals and advocate directly for her son's needs and aspirations.

A key element of the support focused on ensuring Adam's voice remained at the centre of decision-making. WIISS empowered Adam actively to participate in meetings, clearly articulating his ambitions and demonstrating his commitment to pursuing a career in stonemasonry. He proactively contacted local employers and distributed his CV to secure apprenticeship opportunities.

Through discussions with WIASS, Adam's parent gained a greater understanding of the legal importance of considering the young person's wishes and aspirations when planning post-19 provision. This empowered her to confidently advocate for specialist educational provision that aligned with her son's long-term career goals.

As a result of collaborative working and sustained support Adam's final EHCP named his preferred specialist college placement for the Level 2 Diploma in his chosen trade. Furthermore, a local apprenticeship placement with a restoration company was secured alongside his educational programme.

Adam's post-19 pathway was fully aligned with his interests, aspirations and career ambitions. The family felt informed, supported and empowered throughout a complex phase-transfer process. Adam was enabled to progress towards meaningful employment within a sector for which he has genuine passion and aptitude, increasing his future independence and employment prospects.

Parent shared feedback on behalf of herself and Adam...

"We really appreciated having you there, this is a new phase and it was brilliant to have you there to oversee and ask important questions we may not have been aware to ask."