Joyce

Joyce suffers from Dementia and when her daughter Sarah suggested it might be time for her to have some support, she was apprehensive about having carers she didn’t know.

Sarah took it upon herself to help and care for her mum but eventually it was beginning to take its toll and Sarah was feeling unwell with the added stress and pressure of looking after her mum and her disabled husband.

Sarah heard about Personal Budgets from her sister who used to work for Adult Social Care. So Sarah and her sister decided along with Joyce that they would give the Personal Budget a go and share the responsibility of caring for Joyce between them.

Sarah’s sister introduced someone else she used to work with (Claire) to Joyce to see if they got on and to increase the number of carers from two to three. Joyce and Claire got on great. Joyce used her Personal Budget to employ the three carers to look after her.

Sarah does all the paperwork for her mum, sorting out the rotas and managing the Personal Budget. Sarah said “I thought it would be very difficult to start with, managing all the paperwork but I’ve had lots of help from Disability Direct and my mums care manager, they are always available if I have any questions or need any help with the paperwork, they really have been great”

“Being employed as my mum’s carer and spreading the work between three of us has really made a difference to my mum. We all know mum very well, we know what she likes, when she likes to get up and go to bed. It’s a very personal service. We all know and understand her dementia and how to help her”

Being part of a team allows Sarah to take a step back from being her mum’s carer sometimes and gives her the chance to be her daughter again, spending quality time together with her mum. The Personal Budget has allowed Joyce to stay living at home, exactly where she wants to be.
Joyce has a Care Link service too just in case something happens when she is on her own.

Sarah said she no longer feels like she is running around, the care is much more structured and rewarding and her mum is much happier.