Independent Living
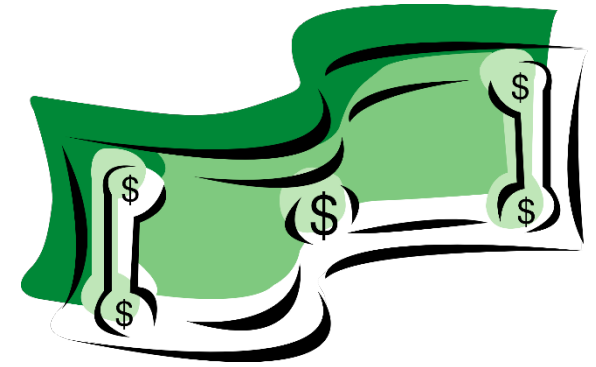
By Keiran Bennett

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Pillars of independent living

- An adequate Income
- Appropriate & accessible information
- Full access to environment
- Appropriate and accessible health & Social Care provision
- A Fully accessible transport system
- Availability of peer counselling
- Availability of accessible and adaptable housing
- Adequate provision of technical aids and equipment

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An adequate income

<u>Example of where this hasn't been fulfilled:</u>

- Support staff using individuals to make budget cuts

- Institutional barriers stop disabled people from working

- Changes in benefits assessments has meant that people cannot use their support to find work

- Charging costs for social care

<u>Example of where this has been fulfilled:</u>

- Family putting pressure on the government to ensure that their child/relative can live a happy and fulfilled life with good income
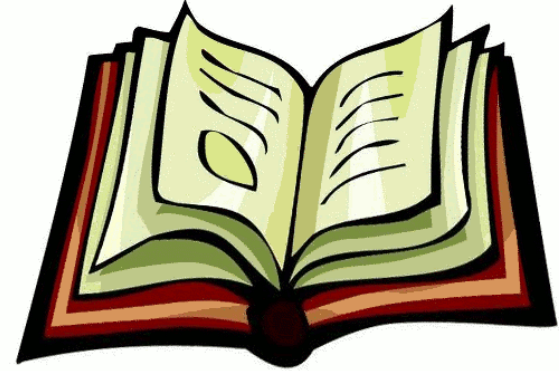
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Appropriate & Accessible information

Example of where this hasn't been fulfilled:

- Not being given information about self directed support

- Information not being widely available about ASD

- Parents aren't being made aware of SDS (In Scotland)

Example of where this has been fulfilled:

- Organisations are working on information being more accessible

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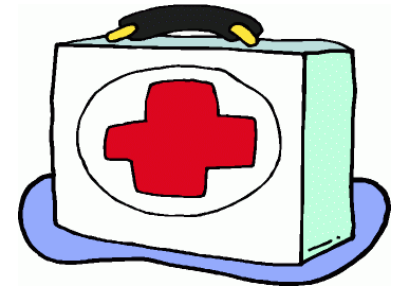
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Full access to environment

Example of where this hasn't been fulfilled:

- Having pavements covered in smashed bottles

- In the community, lack of accessibility in a built environment i.e. pavement kerbs

- We feel like we live in a society that values buildings over people

- Lack of accessible environment means that we can't participate with our peers or engage in our community

Example of where this has been fulfilled:

- Not allowing individuals who use public services access to inaccessible buildings

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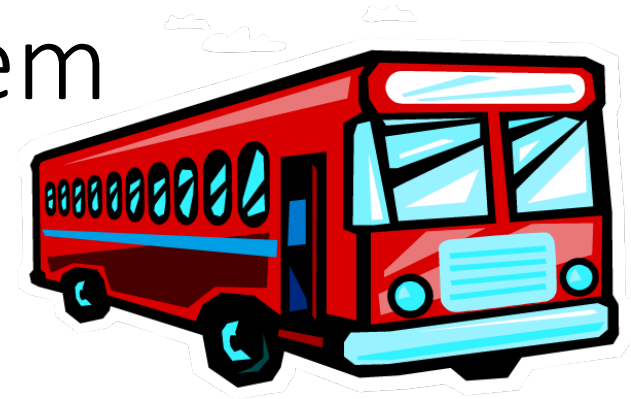# Appropriate and accessible health and social care provisions

Example of where this hasn't been fulfilled:

- Hospitals not having the resources/facilities to cater for those with access needs

- Individuals having to travel further and remove from their community in order to access services

- When accessing health services, i.e. hospitals, you are not allowed to bring with you your existing support-this can be removed from you whilst using the health service

- Individuals feeling punished for accessing health services

- Introductions of pre-payment cards

- Services/local authorities are fearful of giving people creative solutions to provide support because of fear & backlash

Example of where this has been fulfilled:

- Moving towards joining health & social care (budgets)

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A fully accessible transport system

Example of where this hasn't been fulfilled:

- Public transport staff aren't appreciative of mobility requirements

- Can't be spontaneous when travelling if you have a certain access requirements, because you need to notify operators

- Lack of accessible spaces on transport services. This impacts on social networks and leads to costly and segregated approaches i.e. travelling to school

Example of where this has been fulfilled:

- Scotrail's ticket collectors are trained in BSL

- They have also been trained in accessibility for getting on and off trains

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Availability of peer counselling

Example of where this hasn't been fulfilled:

- Current peer support systems feel unnatural

- Peer support is not currently considered a priority

Example of where this has been fulfilled:

- Local authorities matching families together, so that families starting on the journey can be linked with families who have already experienced the services.

- Current examples such as: the LADDER group (Doncaster) Demonstrates the importance of peer support

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Availability of accessible and adaptable housing

Example of where this hasn't been fulfilled:

- "Creating" accessible community environments/homes-another form of segregation and institutionalisation

- Lack of information on accessible features for the home

- Local authorities are moving back to the idea of care and cluster

- Current forms of providing homes is leading to bullying and abuse because of a segregated culture

Example of where this has been fulfilled:

- Ensuring that young people see the opportunity to own as accessible home is a realistic aim

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Adequate provision of technical aids and equipment

Example of where this hasn't been fulfilled:

- Unique technical aids-process often takes a long time which impacts negatively on the individual
- Assisted technology is not a substitute for existing support
- Technology is not there to fix the impairment. It's there to enhance participation

Example of where this has been fulfilled:

- Technology developing and advancing
- Universities are researching into better advanced technological aids for individuals

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