

Creating Connections

Developing change-makers



Easy read case study



MacIntyre's Great Communities project is based in Worcestershire.



The project supports people who have learning disabilities or who are autistic, who may get lonely.



Through digital training and support, Ewan, Laura and Jess have gained new skills.



This has supported them to share their talents to inspire others.

Ewan: Movie fanatic



Ewan loves films and he enjoys watching and talking about the newest ones.



He also likes old films and has some favourites.



When the pandemic started, Ewan was not able to see his friends.



He had never used video calling before, so MacIntyre gave Ewan training to help him keep in touch with people.



With this support, he still feels connected with his friends when he is not able to meet them because of the lockdown.



Training about technology has helped Ewan get more confident and support other people.



Ewan knows that spending more time indoors can be lonely and he wanted to share his interest in films.



Ewan made his own regular chat group called Movie Mania.



The group is made up of regular members and new faces are welcome too, so it's always very lively.



Ewan enjoys planning his weekly sessions and shares artwork to tell people about the group.



Running the sessions gives Ewan a focus and helps him to feel valued.



He is able to help other people stay connected.



Ewan has come a long way from simply reviewing films that he is interested in.



He now asks the group to make suggestions and choose their favourite movies.



Ewan's mum says: "Thank you for making Ewan's dreams a reality."

Laura: Gaming guru



Laura loves gaming and films.



After having training to use Zoom, Laura started coming along to Ewan's Movie Mania.



Seeing Ewan running his group inspired Laura to host her own sessions and share her love of gaming.



Laura has worked hard to create the Gaming Gurus group, where people can come and talk about consoles, review games and share tips on how to level up.



Laura is also thinking about how to make sure her group understand how to stay safe online while making new connections.



Laura says: “Lockdown is hard. I don’t know what I would have done without these sessions.”



“It is great to be able to connect with friends and share about the new games.”

Jess: A language for life



Thanks to support through Creating Connections and MacIntyre Great Communities, Jess is going on to act as a peer supporter.



She is going to create change for other people with learning disabilities.



Training to get online and access video calling has opened up opportunities for Jess.



Since learning how to download Zoom and join calls, Jess has attended social and activity groups that have helped her meet friends.



Jess is passionate about sign language and has been supported to run a virtual British Sign Language (BSL) and Makaton group.



In the future, Jess wants to gain a qualification as a BSL trainer and become an interpreter.



Jess says: “I want use sign language as a way of helping other people.”



“I have lots of deaf friends and they wanted me to teach them.”



“Now I want to help more people to communicate how they feel through sign language.”



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