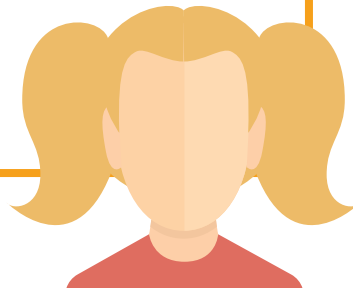


1 Direct Payment

Rachel's parents opt to take a direct payment for her assessed support. With this system they chose to employ a neighbour (Angela) who Rachel has known most of her life. Angela is in her mid twenties and currently undertaking her nursing degree. They employ Angela as a Personal assistant (PA) to support Rachel with her physical care needs in the morning and in the evening. This frees up Rachel's parents to get themselves ready for work and younger children off to school and does not leave them exhausted with the physical care needs on a daily basis enabling them to spend more quality time as a family. Rachel and her Family use a specialised payroll agency to help them manage their employer responsibilities.

Angela is also employed to support Rachel one evening per week, to allow her parents a break, Angela is not restricted by employer insurance issues and therefore is able to accompany Rachel and her friend to the local bowling alley, driving Rachel's mobility vehicle. Rachel enjoys this as she gets to spend quality time with her friends without her parents needing to be there. This works for Rachel as she looks up to Angela and does not feel embarrassed, which can sometimes be the case when being accompanied by her mum.

Instead of Rachel using the residential respite unit in her local area, she and her friend who also has a respite budget choose to pool their budgets and employ a support person to help them access 3 short breaks per year, Rachel and her friend spend time finding out about places they wish to go and have been to see their favourite band One Direction in Manchester, staying at a hotel and going shopping with Angela's support.



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