



Daniel Chapman:

As part of CSV's Supported Volunteering project in Essex, opportunities are created for volunteers to support their community by helping disabled individuals with their part-time and full-time jobs.

When Daniel Chapman (pictured above), 19, was two he was diagnosed with meningitis which left him with non-specific brain damage, speech and hearing problems as well as general learning difficulties. Daniel found himself stuck at home lacking confidence and self-esteem so he applied for work with Sainsbury's as a shelf stacker for two hours a week. However, the untrained staff at Sainsbury's found that they were spending too much time supporting Daniel and this is when CSV were asked to help.

CSV paired Daniel with his volunteering partner, Valery (pictured above), who supports him throughout the day to ensure that he can complete his tasks efficiently and maintain his independence in the world of work.

"Working allows me to live a normal life. I really enjoy it and earning my own money. In the future, when I get older it will help me to get used to a full time job and will improve my skills."

Heather Brown, HR Manager of Sainsbury's East Mayne, felt that Daniel was a vital part of the Sainsbury's team but was aware that his needs could not be dealt with by the regular staff.

"Daniel did have specific needs that our colleagues couldn't address and CSV really were the ones that were able to provide support. His support worker Valery meant that he was able to have somebody with him who could actually support him in the workplace and help us to make sure the customer still got the service they needed but he also got the support to be able to be in work."

Daniel's support worker and CSV volunteer, Valery, could see the benefits of his work throughout her time with him:

She said: "Having a job gives him discipline, the stance that if you start something you've got to end it - he can actually have the feeling of doing something instead of just being at home doing nothing so I think that's really good for him."

Daniel's experience with CSV's Supported Volunteer project has not only helped him to gain skills for future work prospects but has subsequently spread awareness of learning disabilities through his time talking to colleagues, as Heather goes on to suggest:

"He's interacting with other colleagues which is great for him and it's good for our colleagues too. So I think both sides are really getting something from it and we also like the fact that we're able to help."

Most importantly, however, is Daniel's experience of being supported as an employee at Sainsbury's, of which he has said:

"I like meeting people and making friends; I can spend my time at Sainsbury's and make my life better than ever. I'm now able to live my life to the full."

Daniel's mother, Jill, has also noticed positive changes in his personality since his supported work from CSV, stating that "he's definitely become more confident in talking to people."