

Case Study

Basic Profile

D is a parent of five year old 'A' who has a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder. He has one older, neuro-typical, brother who is almost 10 years old. He lives in Crawley and has had a Compass Card since Compass Card West Sussex first launched in April 2016.

Date 28 January 2019

- **Before involvement**

D has always been very proactive in getting A out and about, but for activities such as swimming, they would only go once a month as the cost was prohibitive for the whole family to swim.

Outdoor activities and visits would depend on the weather and time of year as it would be too expensive to go somewhere and only stay a short time.

D would not take A to the theatre as it would be too expensive and she couldn't guarantee he would enjoy the performance or stay for the entire show.

- **Participation**

Once D received A's Compass Card she started taking both boys swimming at K2 leisure centre in Crawley every week. The current Compass Card deal allows free entry for the card holder and one carer.

"K2 is right on our doorstep and now we can afford to go more frequently than ever before. And it doesn't matter if we stay for a shorter period of time, whereas before the Compass Card we had to plan everything very carefully".

Another place A enjoys visiting is Tilgate Nature Park, which is within walking distance of the family's home in Crawley. A will sometimes spend hours there, but at other times he wants to leave within 20 minutes, which could be very frustrating if they'd spent a lot of money to go. With the Compass Card, D now takes the boys throughout the winter months as well as the summer "because it doesn't matter if we are not there very long".

D makes the most of the Compass Team's communication. She particularly likes the weekly e-newsletter 'Compass News West Sussex' as she likes to keep up to date on new offers and see if there are any ad hoc deals that A may enjoy. She finds the app very easy to use and will often search for activities by using her postcode to see what is close by.

She also keeps in touch via the Amaze Compass Card Facebook page. "I find Facebook really helpful, especially the prompts telling me when to expect the newsletter".

- **Impact**

- "I can now take both boys out more regularly as it now doesn't matter if we are only going for a short time".
- "We won tickets to see 'Teletubbies' through one of the Compass Card competitions and we have also used the special ad hoc deals at The Hawth. Having these discounts encourages my son to be excited about a show. Before Compass it was too much of a gamble to pay full price"
- "Having the card has given me confidence to ask at other places to see if they provide a disability concession and I will often show them the Compass Card app".
- "I would definitely recommend the Compass Card to other parents".