

## **Case Study**

### **Basic Profile**

Debbie is parent to 21 year old Abi who has Autism and learning disabilities. Abi boards at school during the week and is at home with the family at weekends and during school holidays. She also has a PA (personal assistant) who takes her out to places she enjoys. Abi has had a Compass Card since the start of the scheme in April 2016 and her card has recently been renewed.

Date 30 April 2018

- **Before involvement**

Abi's disabilities aren't obvious, so it could be a real hassle explaining her additional needs and digging out DLA or PIP letters. Sometimes Debbie preferred not to ask for a discount at all. Abi did get out and do things, but sometimes budgets could mean this is restricted.

- **Participation**

"The Compass Card is great for giving me ideas about things for Abi to do – there's loads to choose from – and the discounts offer real value for money. Plus if Abi has a wobbler, I don't worry so much about having to leave!" says Debbie.

Even better is not having to worry about getting discounts for Abi. "I don't have to worry about DLA or PIP letters, I just show the Compass Card and there's no hassle."

Debbie prefers not to use the free Compass Card app ("I don't like apps"), but she regularly goes to the offers page at [www.compasscard.org.uk](http://www.compasscard.org.uk) and reads the weekly e-newsletter to look for things Abi can do with her or her PA. "I have a look on my laptop before we go out so I can plan" says Debbie.

Firm favourites are Brighton Museum and Brighton Pavilion, which Debbie describes as "hassle-free for Abi's PAs". Debbie's chosen to make Abi's Compass Card a library card too and the pair use it every week to borrow free DVDs that Abi can watch – "she borrows loads". Hollywood Bowl in Crawley is also a favourite. "The Compass Card discount makes it a reasonably-priced outing in term time" explains Debbie.

Debbie recommends the Compass Card to other families: "Filling in the form is really quick – it's nothing like a DLA or PIP form – and it's a front door to

other Amaze services. I'd definitely recommend it. My only bugbear is it runs out at 25!"

- **Impact**

- "Abi definitely gets to do more things because of the Compass Card. For example, if we had to pay for Brighton Pavilion, we wouldn't be able to do a pizza afterwards. We can stretch the money further so Abi can do more."
- "The Compass Card keeps Abi in contact with social opportunities. She finds things difficult, so it's really important for her to practice dealing with social situations."
- "The Compass Card makes a real difference – even more important than saving money is the fact it just makes things easier – we go to places with confidence, show the card and get our discount."