

# Impact Story

## Transitions - Digital Skills



### Digital Skills Programme: A's journey with Perth Autism Support/UHI Perth

<i>Introduction</i>	A, an autistic young adult aged 16, is a non-attendee at school since starting secondary education. Perth Autism Staff have worked on a one-to-one basis a few years ago to help with their anxiety and provide support to A's parents. Through time, A was able to attend one the Health and Wellbeing Activities at PAS and built-up relationships with staff.
<i>The Challenge</i>	A was very negative in their ability to do things and therefore struggled with engagement and social interaction. A does not attend school but now attends an outreach education provision on a part time basis although often exhausted with the social demands. A is keen to have social interactions but can find these too demanding when not in the right environment and can struggle to feel a part of the group.
<i>The Intervention</i>	We knew that A enjoyed IT and PAS staff approached his family about the Digital Skills Programme as staff thought that this was something that A might enjoy due to their interest in IT. We sent the family an invite to our online session to meet all the staff and provide an overview of the programme prior to starting. A attended with Dad and Dad asked a question on A's behalf – What happens if the young person is more skilled in cyber security than the course can provide and the Lecturer replied that they would tailor the programme around each individual's knowledge and level of experience. We sent out induction pre booklet with photos of UHI entrance, where we would meet everyone, the room that we would be using and other relevant information.
<i>The Transformation</i>	A has attended all the sessions with a positive attitude and completed all the tasks to a high level. A has engaged with the UHI Lecturers, PAS Staff and the young people. Over the last couple of months, their confidence has grown, and A is enjoying being part of the programme. A's parents are feeding back that they are enjoying being a part of the group and is starting to get on with the other young people who are in the group as well.
<i>The Outcome</i>	Through A's hard work and knowledge of IT, they have been recommended from the UHI Lecturers to progress on to either the Level 6 NQ Applied Computing programme or the Level 7 HNC Computing programme, which is the first year of the degree. It's going to be driven by what A wants and feels comfortable doing. This is a great opportunity as A would not have the qualification criteria to get access into these courses without doing this programme.

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A did not want to attend the programme due to being alongside other autistic young people. So far, A is now looking forward to attending each weekly session and thinking of the possibility of other options at UHI Perth as they just get them! – A's Dad

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