



Gregor Gilmour

Co-manager of the mentor service

Personal and Professional Profile

I have athetoid cerebral palsy, I have used a communication aid since I was 6 years old. I started my mentoring journey by being a 1voice role model after many years of being a 1voice member. I then started volunteering in schools and specialist colleges as an AAC mentor before starting at ATtherapy in 2016. I have had a mixed education of mainstream and specialist education. I attended secondary school as mainstream, then went to my local college. I did 3 years at Beaumont college before returning to mainstream education to redo my GCSE English to a grade B.

I was a switch scanner for 14 years and now I use direct access which has been life changing for me. It has allowed me to communicate 4 times faster, which has opened up a whole new world of work and education that I did not think possible at first. My device is a liberator accent 1400. I use this with word power 84. It is an older software but I like it. I do not use symbols, I type everything myself.

I am based in north Manchester but I travel all over the north west.

I have always wanted to be an AAC mentor, the fact that I can use my own lived experience to help others gives me a real sense of purpose. I love seeing the progress that my mentees make and watching their skills and confidence grow. I think it is important to have someone who inspires you and encourages you to keep trying. Learning AAC is hard at times and AAC users may feel like giving up. I hope that I can help them realise their potential and keep going.

To get me to the level of ATMentor co-manager I have worked very hard, it took me 7 years to get promoted to this level. Over this time I have done lots of courses to help me in my role such as-

- Safeguarding
- Information, advice and guidance
- Assertiveness skills
- AAC level 1
- Counselling level 1
- Mentoring level 2
- Employability level 2
- Business studies level 2
- English GCSE level 5

Personal Interests

In my spare time I like to play Boccia, go to music concerts, the theatre and festivals. I like going for meals and to the pub. I enjoy spending time with friends and family. I support the greatest team in the world Manchester City and like to attend all home games.

Key Skills

- Resource making.
- Public speaking
- Motivator

ATtherapy

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