



Bernard Wilks

My Brother Bernard who died a couple of years ago had Downs Syndrome and lived very happily for over 35 years at Stanley Grange, which is a village community in Lancashire for adults with a range of learning disabilities, autism and other complex needs.

Bernard and his Quality of Life

Bernard had a low IQ, he could not read or write, he had no understanding of money (apart from wanting to spend it!), he wasn't able to go on a bus or go out into the locality on his own. He needed light but constant supervision.

At Stanley Grange he had a wonderful life. He lived in one of the bungalows, flats and shared houses, which are all arranged around a central village green. He was able to pop in every day to the horticultural and garden centre on site. Every day he could go to the community hall, with sweeping views across beautiful countryside to Pendle Hill, where parties and discos were held, films shown, and other events held throughout the year both for the residents and for people who live in the vicinity.

Every day, he could wander safely from his house into one of his MANY friends' homes and have a coffee. Every day he could dip in and out of a variety of activities taking place on site. Every day he could talk and engage with the staff who work at Stanley Grange (over 70 of them) having meaningful and enriching relationships with so many different people. Every day he was able to access a large a range of activities in the villages of Hoghton and Samlesbury and the cities of Preston and Blackburn, meeting and building relationships with so many people. All enabled by his carers. Every day he could have meals with friends— and different friends if he wanted. Every day he could go out for a walk or a cycle on the cycleway or play on the music installations - all of which are core parts of Stanley Grange

Bernard also enjoyed a wide and enriching variety of activities and off site. He especially loved going to the pubs and nearby community centres where he was a well-known figure and much loved. And he had regular holidays at home and abroad, supported by his carers.

The whole family remained an important part of his life and at weekends, every couple of months or so, Bernard came to stay with me and my family. But if you asked him where was home, he would always say 'Stanley Grange'.

As his brother, I was delighted that he had such an amazing quality of life.